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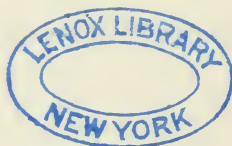


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AN
HISTORICAL SKETCH
OF
COLUMBIA COLLEGE,
IN THE
CITY OF NEW-YORK.

BY
N. F. MOORE.

NEW-YORK:
PRINTED FOR COLUMBIA COLLEGE.
1846.



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COLUMBIA COLLEGE.

THE settlement of New Amsterdam, under the auspices of a trading company, by men chiefly occupied in the pursuit of gain, stamped on the City of New-York, even from its origin, a character which, though determining its destiny perhaps—favored as it is by various circumstances—to become, what it seems fast growing to be, the greatest emporium of the world, was ill-suited to advance the cause of science or of letters, except in so far as the former, by its subservience to useful arts, might seem calculated to promote the utilitarian views of men devoted to the acquisition of wealth.

This colony, it is true, was founded by Holland during the most glorious period of her history; but there was nothing about it of a nature to invite the statesmen, philosophers, scholars, and artists of the parent state; nor was there any thing in the political or the religious condition of the now free and prosperous republic, to

compel her citizens to seek elsewhere an asylum. With the exception, therefore, of civil and religious functionaries—and among the former Governor Stuyvesant is entitled to especial notice—our Dutch ancestors were almost entirely absorbed in trade.

The English, who, on the transfer of the province in 1674, came in, were for the most part as indifferent to learning as the Dutch had been ; and even sixty-seven years afterwards there were, in all the province, to be found but ten men who had received a collegiate education. The Huguenots, and the Germans of the Palatinate, who fled hither from religious persecution, were men who might, like our eastern brethren, have turned their thoughts to the foundation of a seat of learning ; but their comparatively small number, and difference of language, made them, for a long time, strangers, as it were, in the land which afforded them a refuge.

This diversity of language—for Dutch, English, French, and German, were all spoken in the province—and a corresponding difference of religion, either as to doctrine or external forms, were no doubt among the causes which so long retarded the establishment of a college in New-York. For a college was, by our ancestors, rightly regarded as a religious, no less than a scientific and literary institution ; and they may

have found it hard to combine the heterogeneous elements of their social system in any harmonious action on a subject of such near concernment. It appears, too, that a further reason for this delay was a diversity of opinion as to the most eligible situation for a seminary of learning. The author of a pamphlet written, as is thought, not long before the establishment of our college, says: "It gives me pleasure to understand, that the founding of a college in this province, begins now to be seriously considered; and as this great work seems chiefly retarded by the difficulty of agreeing on a proper place for fixing it, I beg leave to submit my impartial thoughts on this head to the consideration of the public. As to the situation, then, I cannot help being surprised to hear it disputed—some retired corner, either within, or close by the City of New York, being certainly the only proper place in this province for erecting a college."

It was not till 1693, about seventy years after the settlement of our city, that its first printing press was set up, and sixty-one years later still before its college was established. How different in this respect the course of Boston! Its first settlers being men who understood and felt the importance of education—who were, moreover, of one nation, one language, and as to religion, mostly of one mind—we find them, only six

years after the first settlement of their city, adopting measures for the erection of a college; at which, two years later, in 1638, the regular course of academic studies was commenced; and in the following year, 1639, the first, and which for many years continued to be the only printing press in these provinces, was set up at Cambridge as an appendage to its college.

At what period the design of establishing a college in New-York was first seriously entertained does not appear. The earliest intimation that has been discovered of any such design "is contained in the records of Trinity Church. From them it appears, that as early as the year 1703, the Rector and Wardens were directed to wait upon Lord Cornbury, the Governor, to know what part of the *King's Farme*, then vested in Trinity Church, had been intended for the college which he designed to have built."*

Some such plan was thought of again, it seems, in 1729, during Berkeley's residence in this country; and when disappointed as regarded Bermuda, he sought to transfer the establishment which had been intended for that island to "some place on the American Continent, which would probably have been New-York."†

* Address delivered before the Alumni of Col. Coll., by C. C. Moore, p. 4.

† Chandler's life of Johnson, p. 53. In this same year, 1729,

But Berkeley's benevolent design having altogether failed, we find no mention of this subject until near twenty years afterwards, when several laws of the Colony were passed for raising moneys by way of lottery, towards the founding of a college therein; and Bishop Berkeley, in a letter of August 23, 1749, to Dr. Johnson, who resided then at Hartford, in Connecticut, says: "For the rest, I am glad to find a spirit toward learning prevails in those parts, particularly New-York, where you say a college is projected, which has my best wishes."

The earliest of the laws just now alluded to, received the Governor's assent on the 6th of December, 1746, and was entitled "An act for raising the sum of two thousand two hundred and fifty pounds, by a public lottery for this colony, for the encouragement of learning, and towards the founding a college within the same."

Other similar acts followed, and in November, 1751, the moneys raised by means of them,

the Corporation of New-York, at the suggestion of the Provincial Assembly, provided for the reception of a library of 1000 volumes, bequeathed by Dr. Millington to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, and which the Society proposed to deposit here, for the use of the clergy and gentlemen of the neighboring provinces. The same obvious considerations that led to the selection of New-York on this occasion, might naturally have inclined Berkeley to place his college there.

amounting then to £3443 18s. 0d., were vested in trustees. Of these trustees, ten in number, two belonged to the Dutch Reformed Church, one was a Presbyterian, but seven were members of the Church of England, and some of these seven were also vestrymen of Trinity Church. These circumstances—the known sentiments of this large majority of the trustees—their well understood, and very natural desire, that the proposed college should be connected with their church—might sufficiently account for the offer made to them by Trinity Church, not long after their appointment, “of any reasonable quantity of the Church farm, (which was not let out) for erecting, and use of a college;” from what has been already stated, however, respecting the first mention of a college in the province—from the inquiry addressed by Trinity Church to Lord Cornbury, in 1703—it may not unreasonably be inferred, that the then recent grant of the King’s Farm to that corporation, had been made with a view to the advancement of learning as well as of religion; that some condition to that effect had been at least implied, on occasion of that grant.

If such were the case, the present offer from the church was but the carrying out, after a lapse of fifty years, of this original design.

As regards the offer now made to the Trustees, it seems highly probable that some such

conditions as we find afterwards expressed in the conveyance from the Church to the College, when actually made, were, from the first, in contemplation of the parties, and understood between them; but neither in the proposal from the Church, on the 8th of April, 1752, nor in the report made thereof by the Trustees to the Assembly, more than two years afterwards, is there mention of any conditions whatever. The natural inference, however, which has been suggested, as to their existence, and the jealous apprehensions entertained of any, the smallest, approach to a church-establishment within the province, caused violent opposition to the plan, as soon as it became known, of obtaining a royal charter for the college. This determined opposition to the plan of the Trustees, was maintained chiefly by one of their number, the only Presbyterian at their Board, Mr. William Livingston; a gentleman, by his birth, his connexions and his position in society; by his superior education, his industry and talents as a lawyer, already eminent; and afterwards, in the various high stations which he filled, greatly distinguished for patriotic devotion to his country. A declared enemy of all church establishments, he, in this matter of the college, was actuated by conscientious, probably, but mistaken views of the design and tendency of the incorporation which

he so zealously endeavoured to defeat. With this view, he commenced on the 22d of March, 1753, in *The Independent Reflector*, a paper published under his direction, his "Remarks on our intended College." After considering, first, the great importance of the institution, he goes on, in subsequent numbers, to discuss the proper mode of its establishment, which he insists should be, not by *Charter*, but by *Act of Assembly*: in which case it was taken for granted that the plan of the institution would be more consistent with the views of those who professed themselves advocates "for constituting a college on a basis the most catholic, generous, and free."

This controversy, which became on both sides a very angry one, was not terminated by the granting of the charter; but took after that a somewhat different shape, in the resistance then opposed by Mr. Livingston and his associates to the passage of any law transferring the moneys raised for the endowment of a college from the hands of the Trustees to those of the Governors now appointed under the charter; and, also, in their endeavours to obtain an Act of Assembly, which, notwithstanding this charter to King's College—invidiously styled by them a *Trinity Church College*—should establish another—a *New-York College*—in its place. They denied the right of the Trustees appointed in 1751 to

apply moneys raised by general tax, to the establishment of a college connected with any particular religious denomination. They entertained, however, an especial jealousy of its connexion with the Church of England; for the Episcopalians, though comparatively few in number, had nevertheless a great ascendancy in the province; its chief public offices being, in almost every instance, filled by them. Their natural wish, moreover, and their repeated applications for a Bishop, to complete the organization of their church within the colonies, had inspired, and especially about this time, a dread of some design to extend to this country the ecclesiastical establishment of England.

The Independent Reflector, the organ of Mr. Livingston's opposition to the college, ceased with its 52d number, on the 22d of November, 1753; the printer, Parker, refusing to go on with it. In the month of January following, Mr. Livingston reprinted the whole, with a long preface; and bearing on its title page "Printed until tyrannically suppressed in 1753."

Contemporary with this *Independent Reflector*, but of less note, were several publications relating to the college controversy, and turning upon the same points that Mr. Livingston professed to have in view.

In the charter of King's College, which though delayed by the resistance it encountered, was granted finally on the 31st of October, 1754, in spite of it, Mr. William Livingston was named as a governor; but he refused to take the required oaths, or to act as such, and seems to have been embittered against the college, rather than propitiated by this endeavour, if such it were, to soothe him.

On the 1st of November, 1754, the day following that on which the charter passed the seals, the Trustees before mentioned, in consequence of an order to that effect, made by the Assembly a week previous, gave in a report signed by six of their number—John Chambers, Daniel Horsmanden, Edward Holland, James Livingston, Benjamin Nicoll and Abraham De Peyster—and at the same time Mr. William Livingston presented his counter report, which, together with the other, was entered at large on the journal of the House. Five days afterwards, on Mr. Livingston's motion, it was resolved that the House would not consent to any disposition of the moneys raised by way of lottery for founding a college, otherwise than by act or acts of legislature hereafter to be passed; and Mr. Livingston obtained leave to bring in a bill entitled "An Act further to establish and to incorporate

a college within this colony, for the education and instruction of youth, in the liberal arts and sciences.”

It seems to have been discovered, however, that this bill could not, at that session, be carried through against the opposition made to it, and therefore three weeks after its introduction, on a motion stating that since the advanced season of the year would not allow of its receiving then the attention which its vast importance required, it was resolved that the consideration of it should be postponed until the next meeting of the House, and that it should be printed and published meanwhile, in order that the members of the House might have an opportunity of learning the sentiments of their constituents on so great and important a concern.

The bill was printed accordingly, and Mr. Livingston, with a view to prepare and form the public opinion in regard to it, began on the 25th of November, the day preceding this order of the House, a series of essays styled *The Watch Tower*, which was continued through fifty-two numbers, for about a year. These papers were printed in *The New-York Mercury* of Hugh Gaine, who had with difficulty, it appears, been induced to publish them. In the last number, which appeared on the 17th of November, 1755, about two months after Governor Hardy's arrival

in the province, the writer professes to consider himself victorious over the party-college, as he calls it, and expresses his conviction "that bigotry will hide its head in shame, under the administration of a Sir Charles Hardy."

In the principal aim of their endeavours, and of these essays—the defeat of King's College by the passage of the proposed act—the opponents of the college failed; but they so far succeeded as to delay for two years the payment over to the governors of any portion of the moneys raised expressly for a college, and finally to divert the half of them to uses wholly different; since, by an act of Assembly, approved December 1st, 1756, the amount in the hands of the Trustees was equally divided between King's College and the Corporation of the city of New-York.

The college was, perhaps, indebted to the friendship of the newly arrived Governor, Sir Charles Hardy, upon whose support its enemies had counted, for even such portion as it did obtain of these disputed funds.

On his arrival the opponents of the college presented to him in writing a virulent address respecting it, of which he took no notice, while he listened to that of the governors of the college, delivered in a speech by the President, with great complacency and kindness. He concluded his reply to them with saying: "You may be as-

sured that the college founded by his majesty's royal charter will always have my countenance and protection." He, moreover, expressed a wish to see their subscription paper; and the next day, when the President and Mr. Oliver Delancey waited upon him with it, he received them very courteously, and, unsolicited, subscribed £500 towards the erection of the college. "This was such a disappointment and mortification to its opposers, that from that time they were silent, and gave no further molestation."^{*}

The opposition to the chartered college claimed to stand upon the broad ground of resistance against the connexion of a seminary of learning with any religious society whatever; but it was no doubt greatly animated, if not wholly occasioned, by a jealous dread of the Church of England in particular, and apprehensions of encroachment from that quarter on the religious freedom which the colonies enjoyed. Else one might suppose that these assailants of King's College would have proceeded with less intemperate zeal, since they had examples, not only in the few colleges then existing on this continent, of such connexion as they professed to deprecate so greatly; but, in fact, all colleges whatever, at that period, belonged to religious communities, each one to its own; and there was nowhere

* Chandler's Life of Johnson, p, 95.

witnessed any such divorce of education from religion as is now, unhappily, too often seen.

This controversy, which for a time delayed the granting of the charter, and threatened afterwards to make it nugatory, did not altogether paralyze, meanwhile, the hearts and hands of the Trustees. On the 22d of November, 1753, they determined to invite the Rev. Dr. Samuel Johnson, of Stratford, to accept the presidency of the intended college, with a salary of £250, and Mr. Chauncey Whittlesey, of New Haven, as his assistant, with a salary of £200. They were sensible, they said, that the salary proposed for Dr. Johnson (though as much as they were able to offer) was inadequate to his merit; but they expressed their belief, that the vestry of Trinity Church would readily agree to make a sufficient addition thereto; and such of the Trustees as were also vestrymen, were desired to recommend this measure to the vestry. And that appears to have been done accordingly; for on the 7th of January, 1754, the Trustees informed Dr. Johnson by letter, that the vestry of Trinity Church had agreed to call him as an assistant minister. In his answer, dated February 11th, 1754, he neither accepts nor rejects the proposal, but requires further time to consider of the matter. Several letters on both sides followed, and it seems to have been with some reluctance that Dr. John-

son finally consented to gratify the earnest wish of the Trustees, who refused to think of any other than himself as their President. He came to New-York, therefore, but by way of trial only, in the month of April following; and though he entered about three months afterwards on the duties of the presidency, yet "he would not absolutely accept of it until the charter should be passed, and he could see what kind of college it was likely to prove."* Dr. Johnson was at this time in the 58th year of his age. He had been for above thirty years the faithful missionary at Stratford, in Connecticut, of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, and since at the period of his becoming such "there was not another Episcopal clergyman in all the colony, it may be easily imagined that he laboured under great discouragements at first among a people who either would not, or could not, at that time make the proper distinction between episcopacy and popery. His prudence, however, and persevering goodness of temper had so prevailed that he was now beloved by his dissenting neighbours themselves, who had frequent recourse to him in their difficulties, as to one of their own clergy."†

His sound judgment, his great and varied

* Chandler's Life of Johnson, p. 89.

† Preface by Dr. Smith to Dr. Johnson's "Elements of Philosophy."

acquirements, his amiable temper, his moral worth and piety, his zealous devotion to the interests of learning and religion, together with the remarkable circumstances of his earlier life, detailed in the interesting narrative of his friend and pupil, Dr. Chandler—all this had, for a long time, fixed on him the favourable notice and high estimation of the public. Eleven years before his appointment to the presidency, he had received the degree of Doctor in Divinity from the University of Oxford; a high distinction at that period, as, indeed, from that learned body, it has ever been esteemed. He seems to have been regarded by the dignified clergy of England who were in correspondence with him, as representing, in a great degree, their church on this side of the Atlantic, and he had been consulted with, and looked to here, as the president of their choice, by the projectors, both of the Philadelphia and the New-York college. Dr. Franklin's solicitude that he should take charge of the former, might suffice to show that he was not regarded as a bigot; but, indeed, his whole conduct proved that in his endeavours to advance the general interests of science and religion, he rose above all narrow prejudices, and mere sectarian views. Warmly as he was attached to his own church, and widely as he differed on many points of doctrine and discipline from Yale College, yet

was it in consequence of his suggestions, and through his interest, that a very valuable contribution of books was made by Berkeley and his friends to the library of that institution, and that the Dean afterwards conveyed to it, by a deed transmitted to Dr. Johnson, his Rhode Island farm, for the establishment of that *Dean's Bounty*, to which sound classical learning in Connecticut has been much indebted.

At a meeting of the Trustees on the 16th of May, 1754, about a month after Dr. Johnson's removal to town, was read a draft of the proposed charter; against which Mr. William Livingston offered a formal protest, and at a meeting four days after, the petition of the Trustees to the Lieutenant Governor for this charter being read, was approved by all present, except again Mr. Livingston, who protested against it for twenty reasons, which he stated at great length. The substance of them, however, might be comprehended in few words, and may easily be gathered from what has been already said. The Trustees proceeded in their application without regard to them; and, in anticipation of the more formal establishment of their college, gave public notice of an examination of candidates for admission, to be held during the first week of the following July, and on the 17th of that month, Dr. Johnson began, in the vestry-room of the

school-house belonging to Trinity Church, his instruction of the eight students who were admitted at this first examination. These were, Samuel Verplanck, Rudolph Ritzema, Philip Van Cortlandt, Robert Bayard, Samuel Provoost, Thomas Marston, Henry Cruger, and Joshua Bloomer ; and whoever has an old acquaintance with our city, will recognize among them several familiar and respected names.

The royal charter constituting King's College, passed the seals, as was previously mentioned, on the 31st of October, 1754 ; but the organization of the college under it cannot be considered as having taken place before the 7th of May, 1755, when, at a meeting of above twenty of the gentlemen named in it as Governors, Mr. Golds-brow Banyar, Deputy Secretary of the province, attending with the charter, the Lieutenant Governor, James De Lancey, after a suitable address, delivered it to the gentlemen present, and Mr. Horsmanden, one of the Judges of the Supreme Court, qualified them as Governors by administering the oaths by law required to be taken. After which Mr. Chambers, who presided at this meeting, in a reply to the Lieutenant Governor, on behalf of the Governors of the college, expressed most grateful acknowledgments for the honour he had been pleased to confer on them in their appointment, and hoped their conduct, as

Governors of that corporation, would always merit the continuance of his honour's protection, favor, and countenance, and convince the world that they had nothing more at heart than to promote the glory of God, the true Protestant religion, and a generous education of their youth in the liberal arts and sciences.

We may gather whence arose this delay of above six months, between the date and the delivery of the charter, from a letter written by Dr. Johnson to Bishop Sherlock, on the very day of such delivery, in which he says, "I humbly thank your Lordship for the most kind regard you express towards me, in view of my undertaking the care of this young college, which I hope will live in spite of the most virulent opposition it meets with. The charter at last passed the seals in October, while I was returned into the country. But the clamour was so great, that there were some alterations in the draught after I went away, for which I was very sorry, and particularly that the Bishop of London was left out from being one of the Governors." "I was in great doubt whether to *accept* the presidency : but as I saw that it would come to nothing if I did *not*, I at length returned and accepted the charge. Mr. Beach has concluded to succeed me at Stratford ; so I am settled here in New-York, being also lecturer in Trinity Church."

The charter, when delivered, named as governors of the College, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and the first Lord Commissioner for trade and plantations, who were empowered to act by proxy, the Lieutenant Governor and Commander-in-chief of the Province of New York, the eldest Councillor of the Province, the Judges of the Supreme Court of Judicature of the Province, the Secretary, the Attorney General, the Speaker of the General Assembly, and the Treasurer of the Province, the Mayor of the City of New-York, the Rector of Trinity Church, the Senior Minister of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church, the Ministers of the Ancient Lutheran Church, of the French Church, and of the Presbyterian Congregation in the City of New-York, and the President of the college—all these *ex officio*, and together with them four and twenty of the principal gentlemen of the city, who were: Archibald Kennedy, Joseph Murray, Josiah Martin, Paul Richard, Henry Cruger, William Walton, John Watts, Henry Beekman, Philip Ver Planck, Frederick Philipse, Joseph Robinson, John Cruger, Oliver De Lancey, James Livingston, Esqrs., Benjamin Nicoll, William Livingston, Joseph Read, Nathaniel Marston, Joseph Haynes, John Livingston, Abraham Lodge, David Clarkson, Leonard Lispenard, and James De Lancey, the younger, Gentlemen.

The college being now incorporated, and capable of holding the land previously destined for it by Trinity Church, and mentioned in its charter, at the next meeting of the governors, on the 13th of May, 1755, the corporation of Trinity Church delivered to them deeds of conveyance of a piece of land described therein as situate on the west side of the Broadway, in the west ward of the City of New-York, fronting easterly to Church-street, between Barclay-street and Murray-street, four hundred and forty feet, and thence running westerly along Barclay-street and Murray-street, to the North River.

The mention of these familiar names of now well-built streets, as boundaries of the land granted to the college, must not be allowed to convey an erroneous idea of the condition of its neighbourhood at the date of this conveyance; for eight years after that, on the 10th of May, 1763, we find the governors appointed a committee to enclose the college ground with a fence of *posts* and *rails*, and near six years later still, on the 24th of November, 1768, Mr. Watts, Colonel De Lancey, and Mr. Lispenard, are named as a committee "to lay out and pave the one-half of the streets that divide the lands of the College and those belonging to Trinity Church." These streets, probably, like those of many lithograph cities of recent date, existed only upon paper.

The conditions of this gift to the college—conditions which, being inserted in its charter also, afforded pretext for the furious opposition it encountered—were, that its President for ever, for the time being, should be a member of and in communion with the Church of England, as by law established; and that the morning and evening service in the college should be the liturgy of the said church, or such a collection of prayers out of that liturgy, together with a collect peculiar for the college, as should be approved by its president and governors.

All who have any acquaintance with our college, or its history, will know how wholly unfounded has proved the inference from those conditions, that towards students who happened to belong to the communion of which its president was required to be, the slightest preference or favor would on that account be shown.

The charter, indeed, expressly denied to the college the power of making any laws or regulations tending “to exclude any person of any religious denomination whatever, from equal liberty and advantage of education, or from any of the degrees, liberties, privileges, benefits, and immunities of said College, on account of his particular tenets in matters of religion.”

To show how little the conditions, which exposed the college to so much obloquy, were

considered at the time, by dispassionate men, as stamping the institution with any bigoted or exclusive character, it may suffice to state the very first act and proceeding of its Governors.

At their first meeting on the 7th of May, 1755, after the acceptance of the charter, the speech of the Lieutenant Governor, and the reply of Mr. Chambers, the Rev. Mr. Ritzema, senior minister of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church, among other things addressed by him to the Lieutenant Governor, remarked that he was sorry to have observed the differences and animosities in the Province touching several restrictions in the charter. He expressed his hope that some means might be fallen upon to heal them; and his belief that it would conduce greatly to that end if his Honour would be pleased to grant, either by addition to the charter, or in such other manner as should be thought most proper, that there should be established in the college a professor of divinity, for the education of such of the youth of their church as might be intended for the ministry, with a suitable allowance of salary, and to be chosen by the consistory of that church for the time being. The Lieutenant Governor, in reply, expressed his approval of Mr. Ritzema's suggestion, and his willingness to grant any application in accordance with it that the Governors might address to him. The Governors at once,

unanimously adopted Mr. Ritzema's proposal, and appointed a committee to prepare their petition accordingly ; which being reported at their next meeting and approved, the same committee was directed to present it, and at the meeting after, on the 3d of June, Mr. Banyar, Deputy Secretary of the Province, delivered to the Governors his Majesty's additional charter, making provision for the establishment of a professor in divinity, according to the doctrine, discipline, and worship established by the National Synod of Dort.

It does not appear what, if any, further steps were taken in regard to this professorship, or for its actual establishment. Even what *was* done seems more than would have been expected under all the circumstances of the case, and to require some explanation.

Perhaps the promptitude and unanimity manifested by the Governors on this occasion, may have arisen partly from their wish to defeat a manœuvre of their skilful and persevering antagonist, Mr. Livingston; for to his management it was probably to be ascribed, that, about six months before this, on the 25th of October, 1754, a petition of the ministers, elders, and deacons of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church in the city of New-York, was presented to the House of Assembly, stating that unless provision were made in the intended college for a professor of

divinity, for the benefit of the Dutch Church in this country, the youth of that church intended for the ministry would be obliged to reside several years in Holland, or other foreign Protestant countries; alleging that as the Dutch were the most numerous of any single denomination of Christians in the province, they might reasonably be expected, in all provincial contributions, to be the greatest benefactors to the intended college, and praying that when the matter of the college came under consideration, they might, by the act incorporating it, be entitled to a Divinity Professor, with a reasonable salary, to be nominated by the ministers, elders, and deacons of the Dutch Reformed Protestant Church in the city, and that the said professor might freely and without control teach the doctrines of faith maintained by their churches, as established and approved by the National Synod of Dort, in 1618, 1619.

On this petition being read, "it was ordered accordingly," by the House.

Now, what seems to connect this proceeding with Mr. Livingston, is, not only the probability there was, (and on which, as we shall see, he counted,) that it would embarrass the college, by either severing it in some degree from Trinity Church, or else uniting the numerous communion of the Dutch against it; but also the circumstance that this petition was presented on the

same day on which the assembly, no doubt at Mr. Livingston's suggestion, directed the trustees of the college fund to render their account—an order preparatory to the proceedings mentioned previously as having taken place about the beginning of November, 1754. And a still further proof of the agency of Mr. Livingston in this affair, is, that in a letter written seven days before this petition was presented, he speaks of it, and anticipates its good effect, whether granted or rejected ; as in the one case securing to the Dutch a Calvinistic professor, and diminishing the badge of distinction to which the Episcopalians so zealously aspired, or, in the other, animating the Dutch against those sticklers for *a party college*, who would have caused its failure.

If, then, this petition of the Dutch church was ascribed by the Governors to Mr. Livingston's contrivance, their ready acquiescence in Mr. Ritzema's proposal may be easily accounted for ; and was wisely calculated to wrest from the hands of their antagonist the means of annoyance which he had counted on, and to render nugatory his design. This is the probable explanation to be given of a measure which, (however proper in itself it may have been,) one would not have anticipated as the very first of a corporation projected, constituted, and endowed, as was King's College.

This zealous, persevering, and powerful opposition of Mr. Livingston to King's College, arose, no doubt, principally from his dread of whatever seemed to have the slightest tendency towards a legal establishment of the English church within the colonies. Hostility to learning certainly cannot be imputed to him, for he was not only one of the best educated men in the province, but showed himself solicitous to promote the cause of letters. About seven months before the granting of the college charter, we find him associated with his brother Philip, his brother-in-law Mr. Alexander, (afterwards Lord Stirling,) Mr. Scott, and others, in founding the Society Library of New-York.

If we inquire, now, into the ground of Mr. Livingston's apprehensions, it is undeniable that the greater part of the Governors of the college, as also of the gentlemen chiefly instrumental in originating the design of such an institution, and in forwarding its establishment, were attached to the Church of England. No one who knows the character of Dr. Johnson, and the history of his earlier life, can doubt that he regarded the institution he was persuaded to take charge of, as one intended to promote the cause not only of learning but of religion, and of that church, under the control of which, in some degree, it had been placed. From the letters of Bishop Sher-

lock and Archbishop Secker to Dr. Johnson, it is plain that they also viewed the matter in this light. The moneys subscribed in England towards the college, were contributed expressly as for "the increase and prosperity of the Church of England." Finally, Trinity Church, in contributing so largely towards the endowment of the college, and by the conditions of her grant, meant, undoubtedly, that the college should (as was altogether reasonable) be connected in preference with the church to which it owed in so great a measure its support ; and when it gave its first instructions in the vestry room of Trinity Church, it was rightly, and of course, regarded as an institution founded and fostered especially by that church. These are facts, which, even if they were (as assuredly they are not) opprobrious and injurious to the character of the college, its historian could not, if he would, deny. But what does all this prove, except that our college had at its origin—what every seat of learning ought to have, and to retain—a distinct religious character. There was nothing about it, however, of exclusiveness or intolerance. When originally opened, and previous to the granting of its charter, the plan of its trustees was declared to be "extensive and generous, aiming at the general good of all denominations of people in the province." The charter, and the Governors who

took charge under it, had no intention, and made no attempt, to narrow this original plan, and it is one to which the administration of the college, however designated, ever has been, and is now, conformed.

If our college were situated in a small town, and its students lived within its walls, then should we regard as indispensable, in order that religion might hold its due place in the education of our youth, that its religious character should be distinctly marked—that it should belong not exclusively, but in especial manner and avowedly, to some one denomination—should be what is invidiously styled sectarian. Nor would this form any objection against it with the wise and pious President of a sister institution, who observes that “in this country, where we have no established church, it is difficult to define a sectarian, unless it be a man who differs from us in religious sentiments. So that in fact, with the exception of a few who have no opinions or care on this subject, we are all sectarians, and to exclude sectarianism from a literary institution, is to exclude all religion from it. And such is usually the result, when it attempts so to trim its course as to suit all parties. But really, of all kinds of intolerance, that is the worst, which is furious for toleration, and that the worst kind of sectarianism which is fierce for irreligion. The

only truly liberal and manly course for an institution to adopt, is openly to avow its creed. Such a course does indeed make the institution sectarian, that is, it shows a preference for some particular system of religion, but it is an honest course, and the only honest course that can be taken.*—At the same time, the peculiar religious opinions of students, whatever they may be, should not, in the award of literary honours, be regarded, nor suffered to exercise the slightest influence. All of all denominations should stand here on even ground, and “in this respect the motto of the ancient Tyrian queen should be adopted by every teacher :”

“Tros Tyriusque mihi nullo discrimine agetur.”

But this liberal allowance to others, of a freedom of opinion which we claim for ourselves, is not to be confounded with, nor to become a careless indifference, and we should not seek the praise of enlightened toleration at the expense of any timid compromises in religion. The minds of serious men seem to be every where awakening now, to a conviction of the great importance of laying the foundation of human learning in religion. The alarming results to which the statistics of crime in some countries recently have led—the fact that the frequency and enormity

* President Hitchcock's Inaugural Address, at Amherst Col. p. 37.

of crimes have been found in direct proportion to the *illumination* of the people, wherever the lights from which it was derived, instead of being kindled on the altars of religion, flowed from the false glare of infidel philosophy, or mere worldly wisdom:—these startling facts have of late drawn forth acknowledgments from various quarters, of the high importance of training up youth, not in science and letters only, but in the nurture and admonition of the Lord—of the great necessity of teaching them religion, and the impossibility of doing so upon the plan of those who either have not any clear and well defined religious faith, or else want the courage to proclaim it.

To this our college, at its origin, no such faltering could be charged ; nor, on the other hand, was it ever administered in a spirit of intolerance. As additional proof of the liberal views which governed in the first regulations of King's College, it is worthy of remark, that at the same meeting at which the deeds of conveyance were received from Trinity Church, a committee being appointed to prepare a device for the seal of the college, a proper collection of prayers for its use, and a body of laws for its government, there were placed on this committee, together with the Rector of Trinity Church, the ministers of the Dutch, the Lutheran, and the French churches also,

who were Mr. Ritzema, Mr. Weygand, and Mr. Carle. These three gentlemen, indeed, and especially Mr. Ritzema, from their frequent attendance at the meetings of the Governors, and their active participation in the business of the college, appear to have taken a lively interest in its welfare.

At a meeting on the 3d of June, 1755, was adopted the device prepared by Dr. Johnson for the seal of King's College, and which continues to be that of Columbia College, with only the necessary alteration of its name. The description given of this device deserves notice as showing how deservedly pre-eminent a place religion held in education, according to the ideas of those who laid the foundations of our discipline.*

At this same meeting in June a committee was appointed to prepare addresses to the Archbishop of Canterbury, the first Lord Commissioner of Trade and Plantations, the Bishop of London, and the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, soliciting aid towards the establishment of the college. It was resolved to send a person to England with these

* It was, indeed, with a view chiefly to religion that all the earlier literary institutions of our country were established. This was true especially of Harvard, William and Mary, Yale, and Princeton colleges, as is shown by the Rev. Dr. Alva Woods, in his Valedictory Address to the University of Alabama. p. 34.

addresses, and the Lieutenant Governor, and other members of the corporation were desired to recommend this messenger and his object, in private letters to their friends. It was resolved, also, to apply to the West India Islands for assistance, and to open a subscription in the city of New-York. It was not, however, till about three years after (May 9th, 1758) that these addresses were prepared and sent; and at a still later period, the 16th of November, 1762, additional addresses were ordered to the universities of Oxford and Cambridge, the Royal Society, the Antiquary Society, the Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce, and others. Several of these addresses (as that to all Patrons of Learning and Knowledge, and Friends of the British Empire in America) lay stress on the importance of establishing a public seminary of learning "in this remote and uncultivated part of the world, where ignorance too generally prevails."

The Governors, in their letter recommending all these addresses to Dr. Bearcroft's care, allude to the loss of one-half of the moneys raised by public lotteries for the benefit of the College, in consequence of the violent opposition it had met with from the enemies of the church.

Dr. James Jay, being at this time about to sail for England, on business of his own, and

offering to take upon himself the charge of soliciting and collecting contributions for the college, received the instructions of the Governors accordingly, and they united with him in this commission Alderman Trecothick, and Moses Franks, merchants of London, and Robert Charles, the agent of the Province.

Dr. Jay, on his arrival in England, found there Dr. Smith, Provost of the college in Philadelphia, soliciting aid for that institution, and as it was thought by Archbishop Secker, and others who were friendly to both seminaries, that to attempt separate collections would prove injurious to both, a brief was obtained in favor of the two together. They made their collection, therefore, jointly, and it produced to King's College a net sum of near six thousand pounds sterling. The king gave, independently of this joint collection, four hundred pounds to the college of New-York, and half that sum to the Philadelphia college; referring the latter to Mr. Penn as its proper patron.

King's College had previously received £3282, as its moiety of the moneys raised by lottery—a considerable amount subscribed by its friends in New-York—£500 sterling from the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel—about £1000 sterling from Mr. Edward Antill—a bequest of £500 from Mr. Paul Richard—one of £100 from Mr.

James Alexander—and from Mr. Joseph Murray property worth about £8000, including his library. The Rev. Dr. Bristowe, of London, also, having bequeathed his library of about 1500 volumes to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, “to be sent to the College of New-York, of which Dr. Johnson is President, or to such other place or places as the Society shall direct,” the Society gave it to the College of New-York.

Among the subscribers were many of the Governors appointed by the Charter, who contributed from fifty to two hundred pounds apiece ; and besides Sir Charles Hardy, whose subscription of £500 has been already mentioned, General Shirley gave one hundred, and General Monkton two hundred pounds.

In this manner were obtained, from time to time, during the first eight or nine years of the existence of the College, the means of its support. From the land belonging to it, around the college enclosure, it could not, at that period, have derived any rent worth mentioning. Even in April, 1785, we find a committee of the Regents stating “that if the college lots were let out to the best advantage, they would bring in per annum about £250.”

With a view to comprehend this whole subject of the college funds under one head, we have anticipated several years, and now go back to the

summer of 1756, when the Governors, having provided for other exigencies of the College, proceeded to erect a building for its accommodation. The plan for this having, in compliment to Sir Charles Hardy, been submitted to him, and having received his approbation, was adopted by the Governors on the 13th of July, 1756; and on the 23d of the following month the first stone was laid by Sir Charles Hardy, and the President addressed the Governors of the College, Sir Charles Hardy, and the Lieutenant Governor, Mr. De Lancey, in a brief Latin speech, congratulating them on this happy event, which had succeeded almost beyond expectation “*Per varios casus et tot discrimina rerum.*”

The inscription on this first stone, which is beneath the south-east corner of the central or older portion of the college building, is as follows:—

Hujus Collegii, Regalis dicti, Regio
 Diplomate constituti in Honorem
 Dei O. M. atq: in Ecclesiæ Reiq: Publicæ
 Emolumentum, primum hunc lapidem
 posuit Vir præcellentissimus, Carolus
 Hardy, Eques Auratus, hujus Provinciæ
 Præfectus dignissimus. Aug^{ti}. die 23^o.
 An. Dom. MDCCLVI.

Not long previous to this interesting ceremony Dr. Johnson had a letter from Dr. Bearcroft, Sec-

retary of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, stating that the Society, discouraged by the ill-success of its repeated endeavours to convert to Christianity Indians of adult age, had determined to attempt the education of their children, in the hope that if trained up in the right way of salvation, through the divine blessing they might persevere therein. Dr. Bearcroft goes on to say that the Society, very desirous of proceeding in this momentous matter, had directed him to inquire of Dr. Johnson whether, and upon what terms, a number of Indian children might be received into the college, to be there maintained, and instructed in the Christian religion, under his care and direction, at the expense of the Society. Dr. Johnson, in reply, states that Mr. Barclay and he had written to Mr. Ogilvie, the Society's missionary to the Mohawks, to sound the disposition of the Indians, and see whether any lads could be procured to accept of the Society's charitable offer; and that until they heard from Mr. Ogilvie they could say nothing further on the subject. Nor do we find any mention of it afterwards.

During the year 1755, a second class having been admitted into college, an additional instructor became indispensable, and Mr. Wm. Johnson, A. M., a young gentleman who had received his education at Yale College, was appointed to

the place which had been originally offered to Mr. Whittlesey. Mr. Johnson, after holding his office for about a year, went to England to take orders, and Mr. Leonard Cutting, of Pembroke Hall, Cambridge, a thorough-bred classical scholar, was in 1756 appointed in his stead.

In November of the following year, 1757, Dr. Johnson was driven from New-York by the small-pox, and remained in the adjacent county of Westchester for above a year, amidst the congregation of which his son William was to have taken charge, had he not, a most amiable and promising young man, within seven months after his departure from New-York, and very soon after taking holy orders in England, been cut off by that fearful disease from which Dr. Johnson was now flying with his family—a disease of which (probably because of the bereavements which in early life his friendship had sustained from it) he entertained such dread, that he accepted the presidency of King's College, and removed to New-York, only under the condition “that he should be allowed to retire to some place of safety out of town when the small-pox prevailed.”*

Although when Dr. Johnson retired from the city there were not above thirty students altogether in the then three classes, yet, Mr. Cutting

* Dr. Johnson's Autograph Memoir of his Life, p. 36.

being unequal to the care of all, the Governors, on the 8th of November, 1757, appointed Mr. Treadwell, a young gentleman of excellent character, educated at Harvard College, and recommended by Professor Winthrop as eminently qualified for the station, to be professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy; and to aid his instructions an apparatus of instruments for teaching Experimental Philosophy was imported from Europe. It was made a part of Mr. Treadwell's duty to teach also the Latin and Greek languages to the two younger classes.

Dr. Johnson returned to the city, and to his more immediate care of the college, in March, 1758; and on the 21st of June following, was held the first commencement; at which the degree of Bachelor of Arts was conferred on eight students, five of whom were of the number of those admitted in 1754—the other three had been educated either in Philadelphia or at Princeton. At this same commencement twelve gentlemen, who had been elsewhere educated, were created Masters of Arts, or, holding that degree already from some other institution, were admitted *ad eundem*.

The year following, there was no public commencement; but the degree of Bachelor of Arts was conferred on two candidates, one of whom had been educated at Princeton, and the other

was, out of six admitted in 1755, the only one who had completed his four years of study. The remarks made in the Matricula of the College respecting those who entered the Freshman Class together with him are, of one, that he "in his third year went to Philadelphia College;" of another, that "about the middle of his second year he went into the army;" of another, that he "after three years went to merchandise;" of the fourth, that "after about two years he went to privateering;" and of the fifth, that he "after three years went to nothing." Similar brief remarks are found throughout the Matricula of King's College, on those who left it before the completion of their course. One "left College in his second year, having behaved very indifferently." Another went away in his third year, "and was not much regretted." And of another, again, we find "the loss regretted."

In October of this year, 1759, dread of the small-pox again drove Dr. Johnson out of town, and during his absence, which lasted until the month of May following, the duties of the College were, for a time, divided between Mr. Cutting and Professor Treadwell; but the declining health of the latter, and his death in 1760, made it necessary to seek some one qualified to take his place; and such an one, it seems, was not at that period easily found. During the interval of

about eighteen months between the death of Professor Treadwell and the appointment of his successor, Mr. Samuel Giles was for a time employed as an instructor in Mathematics.

In February, 1760, a committee was appointed to write to the Archbishop of Canterbury, and such other persons as they might think fit, to procure two proper persons "to assist the President in carrying on the education and instruction of the youth of the College."

This resolution of the Governors, and Dr. Johnson's own desire to provide a successor to himself—some one on whom he might within a few years at farthest devolve the duties of the presidency—gave occasion for several letters on both sides between him and Archbishop Secker, who seems to have taken much pains, though for a long time without success, to obtain such a person as the College required.

Meantime the College building had been so far completed that the officers and students began to lodge and mess there in May, 1760; and on the 26th of the following month the procession proceeded thence to St. George's Chapel to hold the third annual commencement. On this occasion the President, in a Latin speech, congratulated the Governors assembled for the first time in the College Hall.

The building thus completed was that older

portion of the present college edifice which is contained between the wings. It constituted one-third part of the original design, and in the minutes of the Governors is repeatedly styled *the north side of the College*. An English traveller in the province at that period, the Rev. Dr. Burnaby, remarks, "The college when finished will be exceedingly handsome. It is to be built on three sides of a quadrangle fronting Hudson's or North River, and will be the most beautifully situated of any college, I believe, in the world. At present only one wing is finished, which is of stone, and consists of twenty-four sets of apartments, each having a large sitting-room with a study and bedchamber." The same writer speaks of the president as "a very worthy and learned man; but rather too far advanced in life to have the direction of so young an institution."

In November, 1761, the place of Mr. Treadwell was at length filled by the appointment of Mr. Robert Harpur, a gentleman educated at Glasgow, as professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy. It was some time longer, however, before Archbishop Secker's inquiries succeeded in finding any one fitted to aid Dr. Johnson in discharging the duties of his office, and after a while to succeed him in it. The person at length selected for this purpose was the Rev. Myles Cooper, A.M., a Fellow of Queen's College,

Oxford, who came out in the autumn of 1762. From the Archbishop, who had on several previous occasions, mentioned him, he brought a letter dated Aug. 18th, 1762, which begins, "Good Dr. Johnson. The bearer is Mr. Cooper. God grant he may prove a proper man, and useful among you." In November following, Mr. Cooper was appointed Fellow of the college, Professor of Moral Philosophy, and to assist the President in his instruction and government. This instruction, given by the President had, since the regular organization of the college, been confined to Greek, Logic, Metaphysics, and Ethics.

Archbishop Secker continued to testify a lively interest in Mr. Cooper's success, and the welfare of the college, mentioning him repeatedly in subsequent letters; and on the 30th of March, 1763, he writes, in reference to Dr. Johnson's (then, as he thought, only purposed) resignation, "I assure you I will do nothing to retard your retirement, beyond expressing my wishes that you would be so kind to your college, and to Mr. Cooper, as to give him competent time for becoming, and showing himself in some degree proper to succeed you." But Dr. Johnson had already, on the 1st of March, resigned his office, and on the 12th of April following, Mr. Cooper, upon whom his duties had meantime devolved, was elected to supply his place. Dr. Johnson

returned to Stratford ; where in the midst of his son's family, surrounded by numerous old friends, he passed the quiet remainder of his days.

At the same meeting at which Dr. Johnson's resignation was announced, a plan was adopted for the establishment of a grammar school in connexion with the college, and this was opened not long afterwards under the charge of Mr. Matthew Cushing, of Charlestown, Massachusetts. A librarian also was appointed, and a new body of laws, better adapted, as was thought, to the actual condition of the college, received the assent of the Governors, and on the following day was promulged in their presence in the College Hall. Among the changes which it introduced was a great enlargement of the scheme of studies in the classical department, although these studies were, indeed, from the very first, as they continue to be, regarded by the college as of primary importance.

Bishop Berkeley, when suggesting to Dr. Johnson various hints respecting the projected seminary, five years previous to its actual establishment, says, " Let the Greek and Latin classics be well taught. Be this the first care as to learning ; but the principal care must be good life and morals, to which (as well as to study) early hours and temperate meals will much conduce."

Mr. Cooper, whom a writer on the state of

education in this country about thirty years ago thinks to have been "the most elegant scholar that America ever saw," was well suited to follow out these enlarged views as regarded classical instruction. That he was a more finished classical scholar than his predecessor is highly probable ; but the very active part he took in the political controversies of his time, his literary compositions, as compared with those of Dr. Johnson, and a variety of circumstances in his life and conversation, will not allow of our esteeming him so judicious, moderate, learned, and truly wise a man. Dr. Johnson's opinion of him is briefly given in a letter written soon after his resignation to Doctor (afterwards Bishop) Horne, wherein he expresses his hope that the college will be "well governed and instructed by Mr. Cooper, who is well esteemed, and appears to be an ingenious, industrious, and prudent young gentleman."

When Dr. Johnson retired from the college he left there four and twenty students ; a very inconsiderable number, it is true, but equivalent, nevertheless, to nine hundred at the present day, if proportionate regard be had to the population of the city at that period and now. Of these twenty-four, and the thirteen admitted during the two following years, only twenty-eight in all completed their college course, and were graduated ; but

we find among them a very unusual proportion of distinguished men. The biographer of one of them, Peter Van Schaack, after mentioning that he entered the Freshman class in 1762, remarks, "This was an eventful era in his life. It was here that he formed an interesting and valuable acquaintance with John Jay, Egbert Benson, Richard Harison, Gouverneur Morris, Robert R. Livingston, and many other illustrious men, whose enviable reputations now constitute the richest property of their country."

The first commencement at which Mr. Cooper presided, was held in St. George's Chapel, on the 17th of May, 1763, five weeks after his appointment, when two students were admitted to the degree of Bachelor, and seven alumni of the college to that of Master of Arts.

The commencement of the following year also was held at St. George's Chapel; but all the commencements of King's College subsequent to that were in Trinity Church, except those of 1767 and 1768, which were at St. Paul's Chapel. Respecting that of 1765, in Trinity Church, we find mentioned, as if it were a novelty, that three anthems, and several other pieces of music were performed; and so of the following commencement, also, it is stated that "the exercises were intermixed with music."

For near six months after Mr. Cooper's ap-

pointment to the presidency, he had the aid of both Mr. Cutting and Mr. Harpur, as instructors in the college ; but on the resignation of the former in October, 1763, he greatly needed the assistance of some other teacher. Negotiations were entered into with Mr. Richardson and other gentlemen of Oxford, and efforts were made in other quarters, but for a long time in vain, to find some suitable person to fill Mr. Cutting's place. At length, on the 24th of October, 1765, Dr. Clossy, a gentleman educated at Trinity College, Dublin, and who, before his emigration to America, had attained a high standing in his profession, by the publication of an able work on Morbid Anatomy, was appointed tutor, with a salary of £144, and a further salary of £36 was assigned to him as Professor of Natural Philosophy ; Professor Harpur, to whom this subject had previously belonged, teaching thenceforth only Mathematics.

On the 8th of May, 1764, we find it " Ordered, that a conductor be fixed to the cupola of the college, as a security against lightning," a circumstance which it seems excusable to mention, because of the probability that this lightning rod and that on the Middle Dutch Church, the present Post Office, which was put up in the same year, were the first two erected in the city of New-York.

On the 23d of October, in this year, 1764, a committee charged with the erection of a fence along the south side of the college ground, was further empowered to build a porter's lodge, to level the college yard, and to plant trees along the fence. From this we may probably infer the age of the noble lindens and sycamores which adorn the college green.

The affairs of the college seem to have gone on prosperously now for several years. The classes were taught by Mr. Cooper, Mr. Harpur, and Dr. Clossy, and under such able instructors possessed advantages which, perhaps, no seminary of so young a standing in this country had enjoyed.

In 1766, Dr. Johnson made his last visit to New-York, at the time of the Commencement, and had the satisfaction of finding the college in a flourishing state, and of seeing the public exercises performed in a manner that surpassed his expectation.

On the 26th of February, 1767, a committee previously appointed to petition Sir Henry Moore, Governor of the province, for a grant of land, made report that they had obtained one of 24,000 acres. The same committee was thereupon empowered to view the lands, and, if it was thought fit, to have them surveyed. From subsequent proceedings of the Governors, in relation to these

lands, on the 20th of March, 1770, when measures for their more speedy settlement were adopted, it appears that they were situate in the new county of Gloucester, in the province of New-York ; that they were not only erected into a township, with the usual privileges, but to the great advantage, as was hoped, of the college, were constituted to become the county town.

All these anticipations, however, were to be disappointed. Unluckily for the college, its township was comprehended within that tract of country which, after being in dispute for six and twenty years between New-York and New-Hampshire, or settlers claiming under grants from her, was erected into the new State of Vermont, and all grants of lands lying within its limits, made by New-York, were, in consideration of thirty thousand dollars, which it paid to New-York, declared null and void.

This treaty, which the State of New-York, from weighty considerations of public policy, rather than for the paltry sum of money paid, found it expedient to make, surrendered a property belonging to the college, which would at this day have been of immense value, and in so doing, may be regarded as having given to the college a claim for retribution, which all that the State has since done for it does not fully satisfy.

In February, 1767, Mr. Harpur, the professor

of Mathematics, resigned his office, nor does it appear that any person was appointed in his place.

The Grammar School, established in 1763, seems not to have succeeded as was hoped. In August, 1767, it was found that the college had sunk by it about £370. Some reforms were therefore made, and its expenses were reduced by dispensing with one of the teachers until then employed. At the same time the Governors took an important step towards advancing the usefulness and reputation of the college, by their adoption of a scheme proposed by Dr. Clossy, in connexion with Drs. Middleton, Jones, Smith, Bard, and Tennent, for the institution of a Medical School within the college.

The Governors having considered the plan submitted by these gentlemen, and their offer to give courses of lectures during the winter, each on some branch of his profession, expressed a high confidence in their merit, learning, and abilities, with a due sense of their generous and disinterested proposals, and unanimously appointed them to be professors—Samuel Clossy, M. D., of Anatomy ; Peter Middleton, M. D., of Pathology and Physiology ; John Jones, M. D., of Surgery ; James Smith, M. D., of Chemistry and Materia Medica ; Samuel Bard, M. D., of the Theory and Practice of Medicine ; John V. B. Tennent, M. D., of Midwifery.

The inaugural discourses of these professors, and the manner in which they acquitted themselves at their outset, seem to have given great satisfaction ; for, at a meeting of the Governors, on the 25th of November, 1767, it was “ Ordered, that Mr. Attorney General, the Rev. Mr. Auchmuty, and the Rev. Mr. Cooper, be a committee to communicate to the several Medical Professors the high opinion this corporation entertains of the learning and abilities whereby they have respectively distinguished themselves, particularly in their introductory lectures—to thank them for the zeal they have expressed for the honour of this seminary, and the pains they have taken to promote its interest, and to signify their hopes that the said professors, by a continuance of their services, will render the science of medicine much more respectable than it hath hitherto been in this country, to their own honour, the reputation of the college, and the great emolument of the public.”

Three of these professors, the Doctors Middleton, Jones, and Bard, were shortly after this the most active promoters of that noble charity, the New-York Hospital, and it appears from a medical discourse delivered by Dr. Middleton, at the college, on the 3d of November, 1769, that the first suggestion relative to the establishment of a hospital in New-York was made by Dr. Bard. “ The necessity and usefulness of a public in-

firmary," says Dr. Middleton, "has been so warmly and pathetically set forth, in a discourse delivered by Dr. Samuel Bard, at the College Commencement in May last, that his Excellency Sir Henry Moore immediately set on foot a subscription for that purpose, to which himself and most of the gentlemen present liberally contributed."*

For several years after the organization of the Faculty of Medicine, we find little of importance in the minutes of the Governors, besides what has been already noticed ; nor is there any thing, as regards the college, derived from other quarters, that deserves particular remark. The institution seems to have been advancing steadily in a prosperous and quiet course, except in so far as the daily increasing political excitement of the times may have disturbed it.

Among papers left in this country by Dr. Cooper (for so he may henceforth be styled, as he received in 1768, both from the University of Oxford, and from the Governors of King's College, the degree of LL. D.) there is one containing an account of King's College, which is ascribed to him. This account must have been written, not only after the establishment of the Medical School, but, since Natural Law is men-

* Account of the N. Y. Hospital, p. 63. Historical Sketch of the Coll. of Phys. and Surgeons, p. 7.

tioned in it as among the subjects taught, and there was no professor of that previous to 1773, it is probably to be assigned to some date not long after that.

This paper, after mentioning the manner in which the college was founded, and some leading provisions of its charter, then goes on to state that "Since the passing of the charter, the Institution hath received great emolument by grants from his most gracious majesty King George the Third, and by liberal contributions from many of the nobility and gentry in the parent country; from the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, and from several public-spirited gentlemen in America and elsewhere. By means of these and other benefactions, the Governors of the College have been enabled to extend their plan of education almost as diffusely as any college in Europe; herein being taught, by proper Masters and Professors, who are chosen by the Governors and President, Divinity, Natural Law, Physic, Logic, Ethics, Metaphysics, Mathematics, Natural Philosophy, Astronomy, Geography, History, Chronology, Rhetoric, Hebrew, Greek, Latin, Modern Languages, the Belles Lettres, and whatever else of literature may tend to accomplish the pupils as scholars and gentlemen.

"To the College is also annexed a Grammar School, for the due preparation of those who pro-

pose to complete their education with the arts and sciences.

“All students but those in Medicine, are obliged to lodge and diet in the College, unless they are particularly exempted by the Governors or President ; and the edifice is surrounded by an high fence, which also encloses a large court and garden, and a porter constantly attends at the front gate, which is closed at ten o'clock each evening in summer, and nine in winter ; after which hours, the names of all that come in, are delivered weekly to the President.

“The College is situated on a dry gravelly soil, about one hundred and fifty yards from the bank of the Hudson river, which it overlooks ; commanding from the eminence on which it stands, a most extensive and beautiful prospect of the opposite shore and country of New Jersey, the City and Island of New-York, Long Island, Staten Island, New-York Bay with its Islands, the Narrows, forming the mouth of the harbor, etc. etc. ; and being totally unencumbered by any adjacent buildings, and admitting the purest circulation of air from the river, and every other quarter, has the benefit of as agreeable and healthy a situation as can possibly be conceived.

“Visitations by the Governors are quarterly ; at which times, premiums of books, silver medals, etc., are adjudged to the most deserving.

“This Seminary hath already produced a number of gentlemen who do great honour to their professions, the place of their education, and themselves, in Divinity, Law, Medicine, etc. etc., in this and various other colonies, both on the American continent and West India Islands; and the College is annually increasing as well in students as reputation.”

The Rev. John Vardill, A. M., appointed in 1773 Professor of Natural Law, and soon after of History and Languages also, was an alumnus of King's College, and the first one who was ever appointed to any office therein—a pupil of Dr. Cooper, he seems to have agreed with him entirely in politics. He must have left this country very soon after his appointment, if, indeed, he were not absent when it was made, for the writer of a letter from London, in the beginning of 1775, speaks of him as “Parson Vardill, a native of New-York, who has been here a twelvemonth, a ministerial writer under the signature of *Coriolanus*, lately appointed King's Professor in the College of New-York, with a salary of £200 sterling.”

Dr. Cooper may have thought himself in duty bound to take an active part in the fierce strife of tongues and pens which, towards the close of his presidency, exercised the utmost powers of all who imagined they could use

those weapons with effect. He of course "took the side of the British government, and distinguished himself in the political controversies of the day against Smith, Livingston, and other literary champions of the whig party. In one of these skirmishes, he is said to have been met and worsted by an anonymous antagonist, whom he soon after discovered in the person of one of his own pupils, Alexander Hamilton, then a student in one of the younger classes. It would be injustice to the memory of Dr. Cooper, not to add, that far from betraying any thing like mortification or resentment, he uniformly treated his youthful antagonist with good humour and even respect.*

It may justly be regarded as a proof of the influence which liberal studies exercise upon the minds of youth, in awakening a love of liberty—a spirit intolerant of tyranny, injustice, and oppression,—that, notwithstanding the political principles of those who administered the government of King's College, and especially of Dr. Cooper; and although the talents and popularity of the President might seem likely to recommend his opinions to his pupils, yet a large proportion of them were so far from adopting his tory principles, as to be among the foremost champions of liberty, in the cabinet and the field. "There

* *Analectic Mag.* v. 14, p. 96.

were early found Jay and Livingston, Morris and Benson, Van Cortlandt and Rutgers, and Troup and Hamilton.*

The name of Hamilton (whom the College has always insisted on reckoning as one of her Alumni), stands conspicuous among those of students matriculated in 1774. Had the circumstances of the college and those eventful times allowed him to complete his academic course, it would, no doubt, considering his ardor and activity of mind, have been a brilliant one even within the college walls; but the voice of his country called him to a higher and more extended sphere of action. Abandoning the studious retirement of academic shades, to take part in the struggles of the battle-field, or the deliberations of the cabinet, he has made his name the property of the historian, and the theme of a loftier praise than any that these pages are able to award.

The boldness with which Dr. Cooper maintained in his writings and his conversation, principles and sentiments highly offensive to a most numerous party, at a time of great popular excitement, at length so roused the indignation of his political opponents, that on the night of May 10th, 1775, his lodgings in the college were

* Verplanck's Address, delivered before the Philolexian and Peithologian Societies of Col. Coll. p. 13.

forcibly entered by a mob, to the fury of which, had he been found there, he would probably have fallen a victim. A few days previous, had been published a letter, dated Philadelphia, April 25, 1775, addressed to Dr. Cooper and four other obnoxious gentlemen of this city, ascribing to them, and to their assurances of the defection of New-York, all the hostile proceedings of England—the blood of their fellow-subjects who had fallen in Massachusetts—towns in flames—a desolated country—butchered fathers, weeping widows and children, with all the horrors of a civil war. They are denounced as *parricides*, and told that the *Americans*, reduced to desperation, will no longer satisfy their resentment with the execution of villains in effigy; and the letter concludes,

“Fly for your lives, or anticipate your doom by becoming your own executioners.

“THREE MILLIONS”*

If those of the *three millions* who sought Dr. Cooper on this occasion, were animated by the wrathful spirit which breathes through this epistle, we may easily imagine the treatment he would have received from them. But their design was frustrated by one of his former pupils, who, preceding the throng of several hundred

* Amer. Archives, 4th Series, vol. 2. col. 389.

men, admonished him of his danger just in time to save him. He escaped, only half-dressed, over the college fence; reached the shore of the Hudson, and wandered along the river bank till near morning, when he found shelter in the house of his friend Mr. Stuyvesant, where he remained for that day, and during the night following took refuge on board the *Kingfisher*, Captain James Montagu, an English ship of war at anchor in the harbour, in which soon afterwards he sailed for England.

On the 16th of May, or six days after this narrow escape of the President, the Rev. Benjamin Moore, an alumnus of the college, who a few months previous had returned from England in holy orders, was appointed by the Governors *Præses pro tempore*; it being supposed that Dr. Cooper might, which he never did, return.

In consequence of Dr. Cooper's absence there was no public commencement held this year; but the degree of Bachelor of Arts was conferred on seven students, and that of Master of Arts on two alumni of the college; and eight students were admitted.

On the 6th of April, in the following year, 1776, the Treasurer of the College received from the *Committee of Safety* a message, desiring the Governors to prepare the College within six days, for the reception of troops. The students

were in consequence dispersed, the library and apparatus were deposited in the City Hall, or elsewhere, and the college edifice was converted into a military hospital. Almost all the apparatus, and a large proportion of the books belonging to the college, were wholly lost to it in consequence of this removal; and of the books recovered, six or seven hundred volumes were so, only after about thirty years, when they were found, with as many belonging to the N. Y. Society Library, and some belonging to Trinity Church, in a room in St. Paul's Chapel, where, it seemed, no one but the Sexton had been aware of their existence, and neither he nor any body else could tell how they had arrived there.

Previous to this dispersion of the college library, it contained, besides books purchased by the Governors and those bequeathed by Dr. Bristowe and by Mr. Murray, many valuable works given by the Earl of Bute and other individuals, and from the University of Oxford, a copy of every work printed at the University Press.

This forcible seizure of the college building, for as such, in fact, we may regard it, was perhaps suggested by the same feeling of political animosity that had been manifested with such violence in the attempt to seize on Dr. Cooper's person. The Committee of Safety, when they aimed this blow at an obnoxious in-

stitution, which they looked upon as a mere hot-bed of Toryism, were little aware of the fruits their country was about to reap from plants that had been reared in it.

An eminent jurist has remarked "that until the foundation of King's College, little more than twenty years before the Declaration of Independence, there were no seminaries within the colony, in which any other than a very indifferent education could be procured. The influence of that institution on the literary character of the State was truly wonderful; for though the whole number of students educated in the college prior to 1775, was but one hundred, many of them attained to great distinction in their respective professions and in public life. In reference to them and to their Alma Mater, the language of the Roman poet would scarcely be too strong."

"Felix prole virum — —

Læta deum partu, centum complexa nepotes,
Omnes cœlicolas, omnes supera alta tenentes."

As a specimen of the elder born of this "Titanian progeny," our author names "Robert R. Livingston, Gouverneur Morris, and John Jay, each distinguished, alike by his genius and erudition, and all illustrious in the annals of their country, for their talents as writers and their services as statesmen."*

* Benj. F. Butler's Anniversary Discourse before the Albany Institute in 1830, p. 54.

In the year 1776, again, no public commencement was held ; but six students, who had just completed their course when the College was broken up, were admitted to the degree of Bachelor of Arts. The college record of this year remarks, "The turbulence and confusion which prevail in every part of the country effectually suppress every literary pursuit."

It would seem, however, that some instruction continued to be given under the auspices of King's College, though not within its walls, for we find in its Matricula the names of William Walton and James De Lancey Walton, entered in the year 1777 ; and the Governors appear to have met occasionally after this, for there exists a certified copy of minutes of a meeting on the 17th of May, 1781. These are the only indications, faint as they are, which have been discovered of the slumbering existence of the college during a period of eight years—from the spring of 1776 to that of 1784—except, that it afterwards appears from the minutes of the Trustees of Columbia College, on the 28th of March, 1788, that Mr. Moore, the President *ad interim*, occupied during a part of this period a house furnished by Mr. Lispenard for the use of the officers and students of the college, when the college edifice was converted into a hospital.

At the end of this period of eight years, during which the college remained in abeyance, as it were, the Legislature of New-York, on the 1st of May, 1784, passed "An Act for granting certain privileges to the college heretofore called King's College, for altering the name and charter thereof, and erecting an University within this State."

The Regents of the University appointed by this Act held their first meeting only four days after the passing of it; but, for want of a quorum adjourned to the day following, when they organized their Board by the appointment of Governor Clinton, as Chancellor; the Hon. Pierre Van Cortlandt, as Vice Chancellor; Brockholst Livingston, as Treasurer; and Robert Harpur, as Secretary of the University. Mr. Livingston, who in the office to which he was now appointed continued to serve Columbia College zealously and faithfully during the long period of forty years, being a son of the gentleman who had so bitterly opposed King's College thirty years before; and Mr. Harpur, the same person who had seventeen years before resigned his professorship therein.

At this same meeting a committee was appointed "to demand and receive from the late corporation of the college called King's College" whatever property had belonged to it; and the Regents entered with laudable activity upon

their task of setting in order the affairs of the revived institution, which by the recent Act was styled Columbia College. Among other measures for that purpose adopted at this first meeting, was the appointment of the Rev. John Peter Tettard as Professor of the French Language, and the assignment of various important matters to several committees. One was charged with the repairs of the college edifice; another with the duty of engaging proper instructors; a third with that of devising a seal for the new coporation; a fourth with that of preparing by-laws for it; and a fifth with the care of sending a suitable person to solicit subscriptions in France and other parts of Europe. This last measure, and the appointment of a French Professor before any other, may be viewed as evidence of the more intimate relations subsisting between the now independent States and France.

On the 15th of the same month of May, the Regents resolved to institute a Grammar School in the college, and appointed Mr. William Cochran as master thereof, and also to be temporary teacher in the college, of the Greek and Latin Languages; of which, on the 23d of December following, he was elected Professor.

On the 17th of May, 1784, the first student of the college, under its new name and government, De Witt Clinton, presenting himself as a candi-

date for admission into the Junior Class, was examined, found qualified, and admitted accordingly by a committee of the Regents consisting of the Chancellor, Vice Chancellor, and Secretary, the Mayor of New-York, and the newly appointed professor Tetard. And in this manner, by a committee of the Regents, do all subsequent examinations appear to have been conducted, for so long as the college continued under their immediate care. During this period, which was of about three years, they seem to have been very zealous and active in their endeavours to place the college on a respectable footing—to make it, in fact, the nucleus of an institution which might deserve to be styled an University. With this view they applied themselves diligently to obtain subscriptions of money towards the maintenance of the college; and making large calculations, probably, on the success of these, they resolved, December 14th, 1784, to organize the four faculties of Arts, Divinity, Medicine, and Law, making the first to comprise seven professorships, the second to consist of such as might be established by the different religious societies within the State, pursuant to the Act instituting the University—the third to be composed of seven professors, and the last of three. Besides all which there were to be nine extra professors, a president, a secretary, and a libra-

rian—and all this magnificent scheme was adopted when the entire income from the real and personal property of the college did not exceed the sum of twelve hundred pounds.

From the catalogue of the college it may be seen what professorships were, in fact, established at this time, or afterwards, while the college remained under the immediate superintendence of the Regents. During this period no president was appointed, but the duties of the office were discharged by the professors, in turn, and at the commencements held in 1786 and 1787, instead of diplomas, there were given under the seal of the corporation, and signed by the secretary, certificates that the parties receiving them were entitled to the degree of Bachelor of Arts.

This delay in appointing a President appears from a report adopted by the Regents, April 4th, 1785, to have been because the deranged state of the funds of the college, and the great losses it had sustained, rendered them unable to offer such a salary as would induce a suitable person to accept the office.

At length the Regents becoming sensible of the defective constitution of the University under the law from which they derived their authority; and a committee appointed to consider its state having, on the 15th of February, 1787, together with their report thereon, submitted the

draft of a bill containing provisions calculated, as they thought, to remedy the defects of the actual system, the Regents adopted the report of this committee, and laid their bill, as amended by a subsequent committee, of which John Jay and Alexander Hamilton were members, before the Legislature of the State, which on the 13th of April following passed, accordingly, "An Act to institute an University within this State, and for other purposes therein mentioned."

By the 8th, and some of the subsequent sections of this Act, which have reference to Columbia College, its original charter, with the necessary alterations, was confirmed, and it was placed under the care of twenty-nine gentlemen named in the Act as its Trustees, who were to exercise their functions until their number should be reduced by death, resignation or removal from the state, to twenty-four, after which all vacancies in their number were to be filled by their own choice.

The first meeting of the Trustees of Columbia College was on the 8th of May, 1787, when they reappointed Robert Harpur and Brockholst Livingston to their respective offices of Clerk and Treasurer, and adopted, in so far as they were not

repugnant to the present constitution of the college, the by-laws which had been established by the Regents for its government.

On the 21st of the same month of May, William Samuel Johnson, L. L. D., son of the first president of King's College, was elected President, and on the 12th of November following, he signified to the Trustees his acceptance of the office.

At this time the Faculty of Arts and that of Medicine, consisted, each, of three professors. There were no professors in the Faculties of Law and of Divinity, and the only extra professor was one of the German Language, who received no salary. Of the thirty-nine students, (nearly one-half of them belonging to the Freshman Class,) five lodged and boarded in the college, and five others had rooms and studied there. The yearly income of the Institution was about one thousand three hundred and thirty pounds.

During the first four or five years after the reorganization of the college, there occurred scarcely any thing that deserves mention, except the resignation in 1789 of Mr. William Cochran, Professor of the Greek and Latin Languages, and the appointment of Mr. Peter Wilson in his place.

One of the students in college, during these first years of its renewed existence, but who did not finish his course there, was John Randolph,

of Mattoax, Virginia, at that time, but better known afterwards as of Roanoke. He and his brother, Theodoric, entered the Freshman Class in 1788, and were promoted to the Sophomore Class in 1789; after which Theodoric's name does not again occur; but John, as appears from the matricula, entered the Junior Class of the following year.

In February, 1792, the Trustees, acting on the suggestion of the Medical Society of the State, and in concert with the Regents of the University, established the Medical School of the college on a more respectable footing than before, by the appointment of a Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, and seven Medical Professors. Dr. Samuel Bard, who had been Professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine in the first medical school established in the college in 1767, and more recently had held first the professorship of Chemistry, and then that of Natural Philosophy and Astronomy, while the college was governed by the Regents, was now elected Dean of the new Faculty, in which there were associated with him Doctors Bailey, Post, Rodgers, Hamersley, Smith, Nicoll, and Kissam, all eminent in their profession.

Dr. Romaine, who had been giving lectures at the college on certain branches of medical science, having, on the organization of this new

school, resigned his office, the rooms which had been used by him were arranged for its accommodation, such alterations being made therein as were required.

In April, 1792, the Rev. Elias D. Rattoon, on the resignation of Professor Wilson, was chosen Professor of the Greek and Latin Languages; and in May, 1794, received the further appointment of Professor of Grecian and Roman Antiquities. He resigned both offices on the 9th of June, 1797, and on the 19th of the same month, his predecessor, Dr. Wilson, was re-elected to fill them, as he thenceforth continued to do for three and twenty years.

Besides the establishment of a medical school, the Trustees gave further evidence, during the year 1792, of their desire to make the college useful and respectable, by filling several other professorships. Dr. Kunze was re-appointed Professor of Oriental Languages. Dr. Mitchell was chosen Professor of Natural History, Chemistry, Agriculture, and Botany; and M. de Marcellin, Professor of French. In the following year, 1793, Mr. James Kent was elected Professor of Law, and in 1795, the Rev. Dr. McKnight was appointed Professor of Moral philosophy and Logic, the Rev. John Bisset, A. M., of Aberdeen, Professor of Rhetoric and Belles Lettres: and the professorship of Geography was assigned to Dr. Kemp, in

addition to that of Mathematics and Natural philosophy, which he already held.

Meanwhile the foundation of an additional building was, in conformity with the original plan of the college, laid at right angles to the existing edifice, along the west side of the college green ; and on the northern end of this foundation, in order to supply the more immediate wants of the institution, was begun a superstructure intended to contain a hall and several recitation rooms.

The Trustees were encouraged to the making of the appointments just now mentioned, the laying of this more extensive foundation than they were able to finish, and the purchase of a large addition to the college library, by a grant obtained from the Legislature in April, 1792, of £7,900, and of the further sum of £750 annually for five years. They soon discovered, however, that they had extended their views, and had proceeded in their plan of building, farther than this addition to their means would warrant. In 1796, they were obliged again to ask for legislative aid to complete their edifice ; and their application proving unsuccessful, the committee employed about the new building, was empowered to proceed with it until the money granted for that purpose should be expended, and in June, of the year following, was directed to sell the perish-

able building materials which then remained on hand.

The annual payment of £750 by the State being discontinued on the expiration of the period of five years, for which it had been granted, the additional professors, towards whose salaries that money had been applied, were found too burdensome, and consequently, in February, 1799, the duty of teaching Rhetoric and Belles-Lettres, Logic and Moral Philosophy, was devolved upon the President. Mathematics, Natural Philosophy and Geography were united under one professorship. The Latin and Greek Languages, Roman and Grecian Antiquities, were combined to form another. The professorships of the Oriental Languages, of French, and of Law, were discontinued. A professorship, however, of Natural History and Chemistry was instituted, and these studies were made to form part of the regular academic course.

On the 16th of July, 1800, Dr. Johnson, having nearly reached his 74th year, and feeling the infirmities of age, resigned his presidency, and retired to Stratford. The tranquil life to which he was there restored, and the air of his native village, re-established in a great degree his bodily health, and in the enjoyment of a leisure so well earned by the professional toils and highly important public services of his previous long career,

he lived to enter upon his 93d year, "retaining to the last his vigor and activity of mind, the ardor of his literary curiosity, and a most lively interest in whatever concerned the welfare of this country, and of the Christian world."

On Dr. Johnson's resignation the Trustees empowered the senior professor to preside at the ensuing commencement, and to confer the degrees that had been ordered.

On the 25th of May, 1801, the Rev. Dr. Wharton, of Philadelphia, was elected president, and, on the 3d of August, signified, by letter, his acceptance of the office, which, on the 11th of December following, he resigned.

It was now determined that the professorship which for about three years had been annexed to the presidential office, should be detached therefrom, and that the President, in future, should be charged merely with a general superintendence of the institution, the duty of attending at examinations, presiding at commencements, and performing such other acts as are more peculiar to his office. This change was adopted on the 30th of December, 1801, and on the following day the Right Rev. Benjamin Moore was appointed to the office of President, which he had held *ad interim* on the departure of Dr. Cooper, above six and twenty years before. At the same time the Rev. Dr. Bowden, who,

like Bishop Moore, was an alumnus of the College, was appointed to the now distinct professorship of Moral Philosophy, Rhetoric and Belles-Lettres, and Logic.

Under this new arrangement the President was not expected to reside in the college, nor, on ordinary occasions, to take an active part in its discipline and government; the chief management of its daily concerns being committed to the professors. The plan was not a good one in itself; but, Doctors Kemp, Wilson, and Bowden, being highly respectable and able men, the college, notwithstanding, went on well, increasing in reputation and in number. Its funds derived some augmentation from a grant of lands made to it in 1802 by the Regents of the University; its real estate in the city was daily becoming more valuable; the hall and recitation rooms on the north end of the new foundation were completed; and, though the remainder of that foundation (already falling to ruin) and the original college edifice presented a decayed and unsightly appearance, yet the internal condition of the institution, at this period, was not unprosperous.

And, except that its buildings were yearly growing worse, there was little change about the college, nor does its history offer any thing that deserves especial notice until the 22d of June, 1809, when, upon the recommendation of a com-

mittee, consisting of Mr. Rufus King, and the Reverend Doctors Mason, Abeel, Hobart, and Miller, a new regulation was adopted, whereby the requisites for admission into college, after the 1st of October, 1810, were raised much higher than they had ever been before ; and in February following, the same committee, to which the Rev. Dr. Romeyn had in the interim been added, reported, also, a new course of studies and system of discipline within the college, in accordance with the new statute as to admission.

The adoption of the well-considered plans of this very able committee was calculated, and has had the effect, greatly to elevate and extend our system of collegiate education. The plan then adopted, although it has since, from time to time, undergone various modifications, still continues to form the basis on which our present plans of discipline and study rest.

In the spring of 1810 the Trustees obtained a new charter from the Legislature of the State, by which certain restrictions in the former charter were removed, and some defects therein, which experience had discovered, were supplied. Among other alterations, the limit of the term for which the college may grant leases was extended from twenty-one to sixty-three years.

From the annual report to the Regents, in February, 1810, it appears, that the number of

students matriculated for that year was 135. The Trustees remark, that on comparing this with former reports "the Regents will perceive that notwithstanding the many embarrassments with which she has to struggle, Columbia College not only maintains her ground, but increases her importance." They further observe, that they have prosecuted the theoretical and practical system of the college so far towards its results as "to lay a broader and stronger basis for sound and thorough education than (as they believe) has hitherto been known in these States."

The affairs of the institution being, in some respects, thus hopeful, and a great zeal for its advancement manifested, Bishop Moore, in May, 1811, resigned his presidency, in order to make room for some one who would have it in his power to devote himself wholly to the college; and, in the following month, the Trustees determined to divide the powers and duties of the presidential office between a president and an officer to be styled Provost, who, in the absence of the President, should supply his place, and who, besides exercising the like general superintendence with the President, should conduct the classical studies of the Senior Class. The statutes of the college were altered accordingly, and, on the 17th of June, 1811, the Rev. William Harris was elected President, and the Rev. Dr. Mason, Provost.

It seems scarce allowable to pass entirely unnoticed here, an occurrence at the ensuing commencement, in the month of August, when a generous but mistaken zeal, in support of one of the candidates for the honours of the day, led to a violent resistance of the authority of the college, and a tumultuous interruption of its most solemn exercises, which caused quite a public excitement at the time, and became the subject of much angry controversy. The generous motives to which this disturbance was ascribed, and the disfavour with which many viewed the recent change in the government of the college, caused an unjustifiable rising up against it, to wear, at first, the appearance of a correct expression of indignant public feeling; but the legal investigation to which the matter was subjected, and the powerful mind of De Witt Clinton, whose duty it became to take cognizance of it as a judge, stript it of the character of manly resistance to oppression, and placed it in its true light, as an unjust attempt to interrupt a necessary although painful act of discipline. The tide of public sentiment was consequently turned, and the college discipline recovered that standing in opinion, which must ever constitute its chief support.*

* See Renwick's Discourse before the Alumni, p. 28.

On the 14th of February, 1812, the Legislature, in accordance with the petition of the Trustees, passed an act making the Provost of the college for the time being, eligible as a member of their Board, and, in May following, the Provost, Dr. Mason, was elected a Trustee.

On the 25th of November, 1812, Dr. Kemp died, after having, for eight and twenty years, discharged with great ability and fidelity the duties of professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy. The resolutions of the Trustees on this occasion manifest their high respect for his memory, and their concern for the loss which the college had sustained.

During the last illness of Dr. Kemp, and for some time after his decease, the duties of his office were divided between Mr. James Renwick, whose services were voluntarily and gratuitously rendered, and Mr. Henry Vetake, who had been engaged by the Trustees, but, on the 3d of May, 1813, Mr. Robert Adrain was elected to fill the vacant professorship. The purchase by the college of the late professor's books made a valuable addition to its library.

On the 1st of November, 1813, the Trustees agreed to incorporate their medical school with that of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, a new institution which the Regents of the University had established in the city of New-York.

On the 11th of July, 1816, Dr. Mason resigned his office of Provost, and, on the 7th of November following, the Trustees determined that the powers and duties of that office should devolve upon the President, except that the duty of conducting the classical studies of the Senior Class should be restored to the Professor of the Greek and Latin Languages.

On the 27th of February, 1817, a proposition; which at the time excited a very lively interest, and much discussion, was received from the Regents of the University. It was in the form of a resolution of their Board, enclosed in a letter from the Vice President of the United States, Daniel D. Tompkins, to the Trustees of the College, and recommended, as that gentleman, in his own name, also, did, a consolidation of the college property and funds with those of a new institution, which it was proposed to establish on Staten Island, and to which, under the name of Washington College, a charter had been granted.

The source whence this proposal came, and the channel through which it was received, entitled it to much consideration. It was referred to a most respectable committee, consisting of Richard Harison, Rufus King, Brockholst Livingston, Bishop Hobart, and William Johnson, who on the 27th of the following month, made a report, in which they stated at length the rea-

sons why, after mature deliberation, they deemed it the duty of the Trustees, not to accede to the proposal of the Regents.

The mere removal of the college was no new suggestion, nor was the expediency of such a measure considered on this occasion for the first time. On the 11th of November, 1802, a committee had been appointed to inquire and report on the subject of finishing the new wing to the college building, "*taking into view the propriety of removing the college to some more convenient situation.*" The Trustees, it is evident, were then wavering in doubt as to the expediency of expending on the present site of the college, moneys, which would, in case of its removal, have been thrown away. The same uncertainty continuing to prevail, a committee, appointed in July, 1813, was afterwards directed to inquire whether an eligible site for a college could be found, "*at a distance from the city not greater than Art-street ;*" and, in May 1816, another was appointed, to negotiate for the purchase of "*a piece of ground containing thirty-two lots, belonging to the estate of Anthony Bleecker, deceased, not far from Col. Varick's place.*"

This uncertainty as to the continuance of the college in its original location, appears to have exercised, for a period of about fourteen years, a sort of paralyzing influence on the

action of the Trustees, in so far as regarded any extensive or effectual repair of the college buildings. They manifested a constant and very zealous care of the internal condition of the college, and *that* appears to have been gradually improved; but, though their attention was from time to time called to the ruinous and deplorable state of its exterior, yet *that* every year grew worse; and, “while the institution was gaining new mental vigour and life, its bodily state betrayed symptoms of great weakness and decay.” The reasoning, however, of the well considered and able report now made, and unanimously adopted, seems to have confirmed the minds of the Trustees, for a time at least, as to the permanent location of the college, and no longer doubtful now of its remaining where it was, they entered at once on measures calculated to remove that unseemly appearance, and to supply those wants, which, for so long a time, had grieved and mortified its friends. In less than six weeks after the settlement of this question, the visiting committee forcibly pointed out in their report, the apparent neglect and decayed state of the college edifices; from which the institution greatly suffered in the public estimation; and the many wants which limited its usefulness, and prevented its maintaining the rank which it ought to hold among the seminaries of learning in our country.

An attentive examination hereupon made into the state of their finances, having satisfied the Trustees that they might safely undertake extensive repairs of the old edifice, and the erection of additional buildings ; they, on the 6th of September, 1817, agreed upon the general outlines of a plan for that purpose, and appointed a committee to carry it into effect.

Two wings, each fifty feet square, and each containing two houses for professors, were added at the extremities of the original edifice, and of this older building, which underwent very extensive alterations, one fourth part being reserved as a dwelling-house, the residue was so arranged as to furnish a chapel, a library, and all the required recitation rooms.

Shortly before the adoption of this plan, the Rev. Dr. Bowden, who, for about sixteen years had filled the office of Professor of Moral Philosophy, Rhetoric and Belles-Lettres, and Logic, died much lamented. The Trustees adopted resolutions which feelingly expressed their high sense of the long and faithful services of the deceased, and of the learning and ability with which he had discharged his professional duties, together with their veneration for the example displayed by him of all the moral and Christian virtues ; and neither in this case nor in that of Dr. Kemp's death did they limit to words alone the evidence of their regard.

On the 3d of November, 1817, the Rev. John M'Vickar was appointed to the professorship which Dr. Bowden had held, and, at the same meeting, with a view to relieve Dr. Wilson of some portion of the duties which his advancing age began to render burthensome, it was resolved to appoint an adjunct professor of the Greek and Latin Languages. On the 1st day of the following month Mr. Nathaniel F. Moore was elected to that office, and charged with the duty of teaching those languages to the Freshman Class.

Meanwhile the improvements in the exterior of the college, and the additions that had been resolved upon, were going forward ; but it was not until the 2d of October 1820 that, the projected alterations being completed, the building committee handed in their final report. During the progress of the work, the trustees received a valuable contribution towards it, by a grant from the State of \$10,000 ; and the same Act, passed February 19th, 1819, added also to the value of the college property, by rescinding the condition of a grant which had been made five years before, of the Botanic Garden—a piece of some twenty acres of ground about three miles out of town—a condition requiring that the college should be removed to the land so granted within the next twelve years.

But the extensive additions and alterations

about the college proved so expensive, that notwithstanding this legislative aid, a considerable debt had been incurred.

The Trustees, however, would not be deterred thereby from assuming new burthens, which either a just regard for the claims of one who had long served the college with fidelity, or the exigencies of its discipline and course of study, seemed to lay upon them. Accordingly, when Dr. Wilson found himself obliged by increasing infirmities wholly to resign his office, as in February 1820 he did, they, in consideration of his "faithful and eminently useful services during eight and twenty years; of his advanced age, and the peculiar circumstances of his situation," granted him a liberal annuity for life. Being persuaded, moreover, that the welfare of the college required a division of the professorship of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy into a professorship of Mathematics and Astronomy, and a professorship of Natural and Experimental Philosophy and Chemistry, they resolved on such division accordingly; and, leaving Dr. Adrain charged with the former, appointed, on the 4th of December, 1820, Mr. James Renwick to the latter office. To that which Dr. Wilson had resigned, the adjunct professor, Mr. Nathaniel F. Moore, was, in February, 1820, preferred, and, on

the 6th of the following month, Mr. Charles Anthon was appointed to supply his place.

The college, now for the first time, saw most of her offices filled by her own alumni—Professors M'Vickar, Moore, Anthon, and Renwick having all been reared within her walls, while previous to 1817, only three of all who had ever held office in the college, had received their education there. These were the Rev. John Vardill, who probably never entered on the duties of his office, the Rev. Benj. Moore, and the Rev. John Bowden.

We find nothing in the history of the college, for a period now of several years, that requires particular notice. The minutes of the proceedings of the Trustees afford evidence of an incessant and earnest struggle on their part against difficulties which the embarrassed state of the college and its yearly increasing debt opposed to their making it as useful as they wished. Year after year we find them addressing memorials to the Legislature, urging very forcibly their wants, but never obtaining any adequate relief. They appear to be engaged in a perpetual succession of experiments, which might perhaps expose them to the charge of fickleness, but that we perceive they are trying, in every way which affords any prospect of success, to solve a problem, which will not perhaps admit of satisfactory

solution. They are endeavouring, with very limited and daily lessening means, to maintain the reputation, and increase the usefulness of the institution committed to their care. This will explain and reconcile some seeming incongruities, and account for much apparent fluctuation, in the counsels of the Board.

On the 3d of November 1823, the Honourable James Kent was re-appointed to the professorship of Law, which he had five and twenty years before resigned, after having then held it five years. The present appointment of this accomplished jurist having given occasion to a course of lectures at the college, which proved the germ of his learned Commentaries, was, consequently, attended with results, which, while they reflect honour on the college, are of inestimable value to the science of jurisprudence, and the whole legal profession.

On the 5th of September, 1825, was established, for the first time in the college, a professorship of the Italian language and literature; to which the Trustees appointed Signor Lorenzo Da Ponte, a gentleman of singular talent, a scholar and poet of no ordinary merit.

On the 7th of November, in the same year, Dr. Adrain resigned his professorship of Mathematics and Astronomy. In the letter offering his resignation, he, in the warmest terms possible,

recommended as his successor Henry J. Anderson, M. D., an alumnus of the college, who on the 11th of the same month was elected in his place.

In April, 1826, a proposal was received from Doctors Hosack, Macneven, Mott, and Francis, for the reorganization of a Faculty of Physic in the college. The proposition was referred to a committee, who, with certain qualifications, reported in favour of the scheme ; but it was nevertheless rejected.

In October, 1827, a new body of statutes for the government of the college was adopted, and in December of the same year the Trustees resolved to establish, under their patronage, a grammar school, of which the Board of the college should have the superintendence and control. The plan, however, failed altogether of success, until after it had received some modifications in the month of April following ; nor, even then, did it, for a long time, succeed in any great degree. In the spring of 1829, measures were taken to erect a suitable building for its accommodation. This was finished and occupied in the month of October following, and the Trustees made an agreement with Mr. John D. Ogilby, as master of the school, under the control and direction of the College Board.

In April, 1827, a proposition was made by the New-York Athenæum and the New-York Soci-

ety Library, for an union of their libraries with that of the college ; but this scheme, though kept in view, and a subject of negotiation during eight or ten months, failed at length of being so arranged as to suit all parties.

In October, 1829, Dr. Harris died, after being in the presidential office for above eighteen years ; but, with full charge of the college for only the last thirteen of them ; during all which time he had manifested the most entire and zealous devotion to its interests.

On the 9th of December following his decease, the Honourable William A. Duer, LL. D., was elected in his place.

On the 6th of the following month of January, 1830, a plan for the establishment of an University in this city, which had, for some time previous, been a subject of conversation, and discussed in private circles, was more fully developed, in a paper read at a public meeting of its friends and soon after printed. The advocates of this scheme disclaimed all thought of interfering with "the many respectable colleges situated in different parts of our country ;" for many of which they professed to entertain a high respect, "and for none of them a more sincere good will than for Columbia College." But these institutions, "chiefly designed to prepare young men for what are termed the learned professions,"

were, by no means, suited, as they thought, to supply the want, which they imagined to exist, not only in this city, but throughout the country, of some more general, more liberal, more *practical* instruction than could at present be obtained. They proposed, therefore, to establish an University on a broad and liberal foundation, which should correspond with the spirit and demands of our age and country—one, where young men who sought a higher instruction than that which the ordinary schools supply, might be able to obtain it, without possessing any knowledge of Latin and Greek, without being obliged to “employ a large portion of the most valuable period of their lives in pursuits that will be of no essential service to them.”

The public was urged to remove from the city of New-York, what, if in this age of light and improvement it should be longer tolerated, might well be considered a reproach—the want of an institution where an inquiring mind might obtain instruction in the higher departments of knowledge—of *useful* knowledge.

It was supposed by these gentlemen, that, with the then population of our city, it would be reasonable to count upon eight or ten hundred candidates for instruction in all the courses to be given in such an University. The comprehensive scheme of this new institution aimed at an union within itself of all the literary and scien-

tific bodies in the city, except only Columbia College, which, it was suggested, might, perhaps, more advantageously continue to maintain its separate existence, devoting itself to the higher interests of classical learning, and to the exclusive training of young men for the learned professions. The *University* was designed to cover a ground not occupied by the College, nor any other institution in the city, and to execute a design, to which "*no single denomination of persons*" was competent;—for which, of course, Columbia College was unsuited, since (as was understood,) "*its President must of necessity be selected from one particular denomination of Christians.*" It was, however, acknowledged as due to that Institution, to say, that no religious instruction, on the peculiar tenets of that denomination, was given there, and that no immunities of any kind were extended to young men of any particular denomination.

This project, in which many highly respectable and influential men were zealously engaged, and which appealed to well-known prejudices of the crowd, was, of course, calculated to alarm the friends of Columbia College, and its Trustees were at once aroused to great activity. Extensive modifications of the college system were adopted—the existing course of study, being preserved entire, was denominated *the Full Course*,

and another, in addition thereto, was established, which was called *the Scientific and Literary Course*—and this was open to others besides matriculated students; all persons whatever, and to such extent as they thought fit, being permitted to attend. The actual professors of the college were encouraged to form classes for the instruction of others besides matriculated students, and new lectureships were established in all the departments which the friends of the University had insisted on as being of *practical* importance.

The lecturers were to fix and to receive the fees of admission to their respective courses, which were to be open to all who might think proper to attend. With a view to silence unfounded clamours and the objections urged against Columbia College, as being a sectarian institution, the Trustees adopted several new statutes of a very liberal character, which still continue in force, and, in substance, declare that every religious denomination shall be entitled to have always one student, designed for the ministry, educated in the college free of all charges of tuition;—that

Any person who founds a scholarship to the amount of \$1000, shall be entitled to have always one student educated in the college, free of all charges of tuition. This right being transferable,

and the scholarships to bear such names as their respective founders designate ;—that,

Any religious denomination, or any person or persons who shall endow a professorship in the classics, in political, mathematical, or physical science, or in the literature of any of the ancient or modern languages, to the amount of \$20,000, shall forever have the right of nominating a professor for the same, subject to the approbation of the Board of Trustees ; and such professor shall hold his office by the same tenure as the other professors of the college ; the nomination to be made by the authorized representatives of the religious community, or by the person or persons who shall make the endowment, or such person or persons as he or they may designate ; the proceeds of the endowment to be appropriated to the salary of the professor.

As further proof of the liberality of the college, and her desire to show herself identified with the interests of the community,—which, it was alleged, she had not been,—it was resolved, that the Corporation of the City of New-York, the Trustees of the New-York Public School Society, the Trustees or Directors of the Clinton Hall Association, of the Mercantile Library Association, of the Mechanic and Scientific Institution, the General Society of Mechanics and Tradesmen of the City of New-York, and such other

Societies as the Trustees may from time to time designate, shall each be entitled to have always two students educated in the college free of all charges of tuition.

And these statutes have not been suffered to remain a dead letter, or without effect, but have afforded to a number of youths the means of obtaining a liberal education, which straitened pecuniary circumstances would have denied to them. The college is at this moment educating, gratuitously, seventeen students, who have been preferred to various of these scholarships.

Under this state of things, the friends of Columbia College, with good reason, denied the necessity of a new institution, which must divide the already scanty patronage of the public ; seeing that Columbia College was not only willing to undertake all that the advocates of the new scheme professed to have in view, but being already endowed and organized, was better able to accomplish it, and would be rendered vastly more so if aided with even a small portion of the funds that must be needed for the adequate endowment of an University.

On the part of the college, it was plainly intimated by her friends, that, unable to contend with an institution which should enjoy the concentrated patronage of our city, she might find herself compelled to become, in fact, what she

was, as yet, only by injurious imputation, an Episcopal College ; and the citizens of New-York were invited to avail themselves of the opportunity they then had, to prevent for ever her being thus devoted to sectarian purposes, and to make her absolutely a city college.

On the 2d of February a committee was appointed, on the part of the Trustees, to confer with one on the part of the proposed University ; but their conference resulted in no agreement. On the following day a plan was approved by the Trustees, which had been already, in an informal way, submitted to the Common Council of the city, and which, had it been agreed upon and carried out, would have made the college, to all intents, a city institution. At this same meeting, the Trustees further resolved to offer to the Navy Department of the United States, upon certain specified terms, the use of Columbia College and the services of its professors for the instruction of the midshipmen and other naval officers on this station. This proposal was favourably received by Commodore Chauncey, who then commanded here, and was by him communicated to the Department at Washington ; but like the last mentioned proposition to the City Council, it resulted in nothing of advantage.

At this same meeting, too, the freshly enkindled zeal of the Trustees was further shown

in the appointment of several new professors. The Rev. Samuel H. Turner, D. D., was elected Professor of the Hebrew Language and Literature—Mariano Velasquez de la Cadeña, Professor of the Spanish Language and Literature—the Rev. Manton Eastburn, Lecturer on Poetry, and Wm. H. Ellet, M. D., Lecturer on Elementary Chemistry.

During the height of this excitement a very great improvement in the College grounds on Chapel-street, as it was then called, an improvement which the Trustees had for a long time had in contemplation, was finally resolved on, and soon afterwards completed, with a result which cannot be appreciated fully but by those who are able to recall to mind the narrow shabby street, with the beggarly hovels along both sides of it, which were cleared away to make room for the present College Place.

In November, 1830, Professor Anthon took charge of the College Grammar School, as its Rector, under an agreement which was variously modified from time to time until the 1st of May, 1833, when the arrangement was concluded which is still in force. Upon the appointment of Professor Anthon as Rector of the Grammar School, Mr. J. L. O'Sullivan was employed as classical instructor of the Freshman Class, and Dr. Ellet as instructor of the Sophomore Class in

Elementary Chemistry ; and in May, 1832, a distinct professorship of this department being established, Dr. Ellet was appointed to fill it. He held this appointment, however, for only one year, when new arrangements, dictated by the necessity of reducing the expenses of the college, determined the Trustees to discontinue his professorship. They did not do so, though, without expressing their high sense of the skill and assiduity with which he had discharged its duties, and adding a handsome gratuity to his stipulated salary.

In October, 1835, Professor Moore having resigned his office, Dr. Anthon, the Jay-Professor, (as since February, 1830, he had been styled,) was elected in his place, and Mr. Robert G. Vermilye, an alumnus of the College, was appointed classical instructor of the Freshman Class, Librarian, and Secretary of the College Board.

On a revision of the statutes, in the year 1836, both courses of study pursued in the college, were further enlarged ; and the Scientific and Literary Course in particular, was defined and materially extended. And in order that this course, as well as the scientific branches of the Full Course, might be conducted in the most efficient manner, the Trustees appropriated the sum of \$10,000 for the purchase of additional

apparatus, as well as for adding to the library the requisite books of reference and illustration.*

On the 13th of April, 1837, was celebrated, with much solemnity, the semi-centennial anniversary of the re-organization of the College under Trustees of its own. The Trustees, President, Professors, Alumni, and Students of the College, united in measures calculated to give interest to the day. In the morning, at St. John's Chapel, an Oration and a Poem were delivered, before a numerous audience, by Alumni of the College previously appointed. Odes in several languages, composed and arranged to music for the occasion, were sung; there were suitable religious services, and appropriate music, and honorary degrees were conferred on several distinguished gentlemen, selected by a committee specially appointed for that purpose. In the evening the college was decorated, illuminated, and thrown open for the reception and entertainment of a large number of invited guests.

In January, 1838, the Trustees made a valuable addition to the College Library by purchasing that of their former professor, Moore, whom they

* During the preceding year, 1835, the Trustees had increased the means of instruction belonging to the college by the purchase of two collections of minerals, at an aggregate cost of \$2,300, and since then there has been added to their cabinet a valuable geological collection, presented by the State.

also appointed Librarian, and as such he was, for about a year, busily employed in making a new arrangement and a catalogue of the whole library, and placing this department of the college on a better and more serviceable footing than before. On his resignation Mr. George C. Schaeffer was appointed in his place.

In February, 1839, a proposal for the re-establishment of a school of medicine connected with the college was received from the professors who had then recently constituted the Medical Faculty of the New-York City University. This proposal was fully considered, and rather favourably viewed by the Trustees; but resulted finally in no agreement.

In May, 1842, President Duer found himself obliged, by severe and long continued illness, to resign his office; and on the 1st of August following, Nathaniel F. Moore, LL. D., was appointed in his place.

In April, 1843, a professorship of the German Language and Literature was established on an endowment of \$20,000, bequeathed for that purpose by Frederick Gebhard, Esq., and in the month of June following, John Louis Tellkamp, J. U. D., of Gottingen, was appointed *Gebhard Professor*.

On a revision of the statutes in July, of this year, the *Scientific and Literary Course*, after

an unsuccessful experiment of thirteen years, was finally abolished. As distinguished from the *Full Course* it had never found much favour with the public. There was not a single student engaged in it at this time, and during the last two years there had been, in all, but four.

Another change now made, and an important one, was the adoption of the German Language and Literature as part of the ordinary academic course.

The Trustees were determined to this step, not only by the great and daily increasing value of the German language, but also by their persuasion that the mere *study* of it may be regarded as a mental discipline of the highest value, and consequently as subserving the principal design of the college, which is rather to *educate* than to *instruct*.

Since the appointment of a Gebhard Professor, several other changes have been made, as regards the persons engaged in conducting the sub graduate college course.

Upon the resignation, in 1843, of the Rev. Robert G. Vermilye, Mr. Henry Drisler, jun., an alumnus of the College, received a temporary appointment, as classical instructor of the Freshman Class, and was afterwards retained in office, with the title of Adjunct Professor, which his predecessor had when he resigned.

In June, 1843, Dr. Anderson resigned the professorship of Mathematics and Astronomy, and in the following month, the Rev. Charles W. Hackley, S. T. D., was appointed in his place.

In December, 1844, Mr. J. W. S. Hows was appointed professor of Elocution, with the duty of giving instruction therein, to the Freshman Class.

As regards the present state and prospects of the college, they are such as may encourage its friends. The Trustees have lately entered upon measures, which, with some sacrifice of that ornament hitherto derived to the college edifice and its vicinity, from the free space and open grounds behind it, promise to relieve the institution, after a few years, from the pecuniary embarrassments which have, for a long time, impeded in some degree its useful action.

The great extension of our city towards the North, and the so general removal of its inhabitants in the same direction, have threatened such serious injury to the college, that the question of its own removal was not long ago revived ; but the number of students it already receives from Brooklyn, Jamaica, and Staten Island,—the rapidly growing population, more especially of Brooklyn, and the increasing facility of communication between the neighbouring islands and

the college, authorize the hope that the patronage it will obtain from those quarters will, in a great measure, countervail the inconvenience of its location, considered merely as regards the city of New-York, and that the number of its students, which has been gradually advancing for the last three years, will hereafter be better proportioned to its just claims, and to the great advantages which its academic course holds out to studious youth.

The college has the greater reason to expect support from the quarters mentioned, because students who come thence will experience in greater degree than those residing in New-York, the benefits of a system which, leaving students to the comfort, the security, and the salutary influences of their home, unites parental discipline and supervision with that which the college exercises.

A writer on the state of education in New-York, about thirty years ago, viewing this matter in a different light, supposes one cause of the small number of students resorting to Columbia College, may be the preference given to institutions which require residence within their walls. There may be truth in this conjecture, since this preference is not unusual, but there is reason to believe that the grounds for it are often such as will not bear examination. A father who finds

his son difficult to manage, is easily persuaded to send him abroad for his education ; and, willing to flatter himself that all is going well, so long as he neither sees nor hears any thing to the contrary, he quiets his conscience by this endeavour to devolve on others the great responsibility that he ought to *bear*, or at least to *share* himself.

The reverend and learned head of a neighbouring University, a profound writer and thinker on subjects of morals as well as education, in his "Thoughts on the Present Collegiate System of the United States," argues very forcibly against the plan of residence within the college, even for students sent to it from abroad.

The plan which he prefers may perhaps be suited for a country town ; but neither residence within the college, nor, at the student's choice, without it, would be safe for those sent from a distance to the city of New-York. Yet the temptations and dangers even of this great city, are less to youths who live under the anxious watch of a parent's eye at home, than are those of the smallest village to young men abandoned to themselves and unrestrained, as experience shows they are, and as they must inevitably be, when sent to any college whatever in this country to reside.

We think it therefore an inestimable advan-

tage attending the system here adopted, that youth may obtain a collegiate education without a separation from their natural friends, or any check to the expansion of those virtues and affections which are the peculiar growth of the domestic circle—of the family—which, with all its sympathies of relationship and society, is the natural situation for the young.

APPENDIX.

IN the Historical sketch that has been given of Columbia College, the Minutes of the Governors, the Regents and the Trustees, who successively had charge of the Institution under its different names, and the College Matricula, have been regarded as of paramount authority, and adhered to whenever, as in some few particulars, there appeared to be a discrepancy between them and other respectable memorials of facts relating to the college. From one of these—Chandler's Life of Johnson—and from the source which chiefly it was taken, the Rev. Dr. Johnson's autograph memoir of himself, kindly communicated by his venerable grandson, the author has had much assistance; and he desires here to make a general acknowledgment to various other persons, whose very words he is conscious that he has sometimes adopted as his own, although he could not now in every instance point them out.

He is indebted for several interesting facts to the "Address delivered before the Alumni of

Columbia College in 1825, by C. C. Moore," and has been greatly guided by it in his narrative.

To the Hon. Gulian C. Verplanck his obligations are numerous, and more especially throughout this Appendix, since a great portion of it is derived from that gentleman's Address delivered before the Philolexian and Peithologian Societies of Columbia College; from the Biographical Notice of the Rev. Dr. Johnson in the Churchman's Magazine, that of Dr. Cooper in the Analectic Magazine, and an Obituary Notice of Dr. Wm. Samuel Johnson, communicated to the author by his son, which are all ascribed to the pen of Mr. Verplanck. What is stated, however, in this Appendix of the last named Dr. Johnson, is derived in part from Mr. Irving's Address delivered before the Alumni of Columbia College.

The author is under obligations also to Mr. Sedgwick's "Memoir of William Livingston," and especially for that it first led him to consult the Journals of the Colonial Assembly, where much relating to Mr. Livingston's controversy with King's College, is contained.

At several important periods of his narrative the author has confined himself to the mere surface of affairs, as well from unwillingness as from inability to explore the intricate and troubled passages that will present themselves before

the minds of readers who remember the establishment of the City University; the appointment of a Provost in the college, and the next following commencement; or of the few, if indeed there shall be any, who are able to recall the organization of the Medical Faculty in 1792.

The biographical notices which follow, were embodied in the preceding sketch, as originally drawn out; but it has been thought better now to place them here.

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* * “surrounded by numerous old friends, he passed the quiet remainder of his days.”

Dr. Johnson, on his return to Stratford, resumed the duties of a parish priest, and devoted himself to study and to his clerical functions with the same zeal as forty years before. “Occupied in works of piety and usefulness, his virtuous and venerable age glided peacefully along, until the 6th of January 1772, when after a very short and apparently slight indisposition, he expired in his chair without a struggle or a groan.”

The following inscription on a neat monument erected over his remains, in the Episcopal burying-ground at Stratford, is from Dr. Cooper's pen :

M. 5.

SAMUELIS JOHNSON, D. D.

Collegii Regalis, Novi Eboraci,

Præsidis primi,

Et hujus Ecclesiæ nuper Rectoris.

NATUS DIE 14^{to} OCTOB. 1696.OBIIT 6^{to} JAN. 1772,

If decent dignity, and modest mien,
The cheerful heart, and countenance serene ;
If pure religion and unsullied truth,
His age's solace, and his search in youth,
In charity, through all the race he ran,
Still wishing well, and doing good to man ;
If learning free from pedantry and pride ;
If faith and virtue walking side by side ;
If well to mark his being's aim and end,
To shine through life the father and the friend ;
If *these* ambition in thy soul can raise,
Excite thy reverence, or demand thy praise,
Reader, ere yet thou quit this earthly scene,
Revere his name, and be what he has been.

Dr. Johnson “ was remarkable for a very uniform and placid temper, which was displayed in habitual beneficence and hospitality.” He is said to have been of a mild and pleasing countenance, and such, indeed, he appears in the portrait of him, presented to the college by the painter Kilbourn, and which hangs in its library.

The different views which, in the result of his studious investigations, he had come to entertain on several important points, and the fact that many of his early friends, from whom in after life he differed, did but adhere to opinions which had originally been his own, contributed, together with his gentle character, to give to his controversial pieces, which were numerous, a tone of mildness and urbanity not often found in writings of that sort.

Dr. Johnson published in 1746 a brief system of morality, and soon afterwards a Compendium of Logic and Metaphysics; which two treatises were so approved by Dr. Franklin that he reprinted them together in an octavo volume in 1752. This led to a correspondence between him and Dr. Johnson, whom he repeatedly consulted as to a plan of education for the college of Philadelphia, of which he would gladly have persuaded him to accept the Presidency.

The work so approved by Dr. Franklin was soon after reprinted in London, where also a third edition, corrected and enlarged by the author, with a preface by Dr. Smith (afterwards Provost of the University of Pennsylvania) appeared in a very neat form in 1754.

A little work of Dr. Johnson's was published in London in 1757, entitled, "An English and Hebrew Grammar, being the first short rudiments

of the two languages taught together, to which is added a Synopsis of all the Parts of Learning."

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* * "many other illustrious men, whose enviable reputations now constitute the richest property of their country."

Among those alluded to in this general way, there were—even of the five graduated at the same time with Peter Van Schaack and Gouverneur Morris—three at least who seem entitled to particular mention.

One of them, Benjamin Moore, was the last president of King's College, having been appointed to that office *ad interim*, during the temporary absence (as it was supposed to be) of Dr. Cooper. On the revival of the college under its new name, and while its affairs were administered by the Regents, he was professor of Rhetoric and Logic; and in 1801, being then Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of New-York, he was again, after an interval of six and twenty years, appointed to the presidency of Columbia College, which he held until his resignation in 1811. As Bishop he succeeded to Samuel Provoost, who also was an alumnus of King's College, graduated at its first commencement.

Bishop Moore was distinguished for an unaffected simplicity of character, accompanied, however, with uniform prudence and an accurate knowledge of mankind—for a meekness “not easily provoked,” but which pursued the dictates of duty with persevering firmness, and for an ardent piety, yet free from ostentation, and ever under the control of sober judgment.

Another of these three was John Stevens, who by “his agency in the invention, introduction, and gradual improvement of steam-boats, from the early and imperfect experiments made upon the Hudson and Delaware, between 1785 and 1800, up to the admirable mechanism and models of the boats constructed by his sons, is well known to all who have paid any attention to the history of steam navigation.” Colonel Stevens has, however, other less known claims to distinction, for the enlightened foresight with which in another instance he anticipated the progress of improvement. Nothing now occupies a larger portion of the capital, enterprise, and useful science of the civilized world, than railroads. But many years before their adoption and use upon any extensive scale, and long before the combination of steam-carriages with them had been suggested elsewhere, Colonel Stevens, in a memoir addressed to the Canal Commissioners of New-York, pointed out the practicability and

advantages of railroads on the largest scale. This memoir, and the correspondence with De Witt Clinton, Robert R. Livingston, and Gouverneur Morris, which resulted from it, he published in 1812, under the title of "Documents tending to prove the superior advantages of railways and steam-carriages over canal navigation." In 1819 he again brought this subject before the public, in another form, and with the additional lights which the experience of eight years had supplied. In an elaborate and able memorial, he recommended to the Legislature of New-York the combining of railroads with the great system of internal improvement, in which the State was then engaged. He was, however, still too far in advance of the times, and though his memorial received a respectful reference, and was ordered to be printed, yet it led to no immediate practical result.*

The remaining one of these three was Gulian Verplanck, a gentleman who, in stations of great trust and high distinction, commercial or political, acquitted himself with ability and honour. He was the second President of the Bank of New-York, after its incorporation, and was Speaker of the House of Assembly of the State. Accomplished by education and by travel, he was dis-

* See Verplanck's Address delivered before the Philolexian and Peithologian Societies of Col. College. Note 3d.

tinguished for his refined literary taste, and even as a graceful poet.

The following specimen of his talent as such, which, its date and other circumstances taken into view, possesses a peculiar interest, was copied from the window of an inn in England :

Hail happy Britain ! Freedom's blest retreat,
Great is thy power, thy wealth, thy glory great.
But wealth and power have no immortal day,
For all things only ripen to decay ;
And when that time arrives, the lot of all,
When Britain's glory, wealth, and power must fall ;
Then shall thy sons—for such is heaven's decree—
In other worlds another Britain see,
And what thou art America shall be.

GULIAN VERPLANCK, 1775.

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* * * “in which soon afterwards he sailed for England.”

Dr. Cooper does not appear to have been disgusted with politics in consequence of the trouble and banishment which his active participation in them had thus brought upon him. About eighteen months after his return to England, on the 13th of December, 1776, “being the day appointed for a public fast on account of the troubles in America,” he preached a political sermon before the University of Oxford, which was published at the request of the Vice Chancellor and Heads of Houses. This called forth soon after “a letter to the Rev. Dr. Cooper on the Origin of Civil

Government," which the Monthly Reviewers style "a poignant antidote to the poison contained in Dr. Cooper's high-flying tory sermon. They think the author of the letter rather too acrimonious in his language, but say, "We approve, however, the principles on which this defender of liberty enters the lists with a person of Dr. Cooper's abilities, and the reasons which he has assigned for encountering this formidable champion of despotism, will, no doubt, be satisfactory to the active and vigilant friends of freedom."*

Dr. Cooper afterwards became minister of the first Episcopal Chapel in Edinburgh, where he continued to officiate for a very respectable congregation until his death, which was very sudden, in 1785. He was interred there in the English burying-ground. His epitaph, written by himself, is liable to Johnson's just censure of all endeavours at liveliness and humour in this kind of composition, as being "attempts to be jocular upon one of the few things which make wise men serious."

Here lies a priest of English blood,
Who, living, liked whate'er was good :
Good company, good wine, good name,
Yet never hunted after fame ;
But, as the first he still preferred,
So here he chose to be interred,

* Monthly Review, vol. 56, p. 473.

And, unobserved, from crowds withdrew,
 To rest among a chosen few ;
 In humble hope that sovereign love
 Will raise him to be blest above.

Dr. Cooper had published at Oxford, the year before he left it for America, an octavo volume of miscellaneous poetry, which was regarded as affording evidence of classical refinement and correct taste, rather than of genius or any remarkable poetic talent. A judicious critic remarks of the whole collection, that it "denotes a mind capable of much higher things, in a different application of its powers."—Dr. Cooper's political pieces were distinguished for strength and elegance of style, as well as for a boldness of satire and severity of sarcasm that has seldom been surpassed. "His moral character was without any serious reproach, although grave men were occasionally offended by the freedom and conviviality of his social habits. The memory of one of the peculiarities of his conversation has been preserved by a sarcasm of a rival wit of the opposite party :

' And lo ! a cardinal's hat is spread
 O'er *punster* Cooper's reverend head.' ”*

That the idea of making Dr. Cooper, not a cardinal, indeed, but a bishop, was entertained,

* Trumbull's *Mac Fingal*. This notice of Dr. Cooper is chiefly taken from the *Analectic Magazine*, vol. 14.

appears from a letter, real or pretended, from an American in London, about two months before his flight from the College. The writer of this letter speaks of the appointment of a bishop for America as a thing resolved on, and says, that Dr. Cooper, of New-York, "the ministerial writer there," is the person intended for that office.

As a further sample of Dr. Cooper's poetic talent, and as possessing some interest from their close connexion with his personal history, the following verses have been taken from the Gentleman's Magazine for July 1776, where they are styled, "Stanzas written on the evening of the 10th of May, 1776, by an Exile from America."

To thee, O God, by whom I live,
The tribute of my soul to give
On this eventful day,
To thee, O God, my voice I raise ;
To thee address my grateful praise,
And swell the duteous lay.

Now has this orb unceasing run
Its annual circuit round the sun,
Since when the heirs of strife,
Led by the pale moon's midnight ray,
And bent on mischief, urged their way,
To seize my guiltless life.

At ease my weary limbs were laid,
And slumbers sweet around me shed
The blessings of repose :

Unconscious of the dark design,
I knew no base intent was mine,
And therefore feared no foes.

When straight, a heav'n directed youth,
Whom oft my lessons led to truth,
And honour's sacred shrine,
Advancing quick before the rest,
With trembling tongue my ear address,
Yet sure in voice divine :

“ Awake ! awake ! the storm is nigh—
This instant rouse—this instant fly—
The next may be too late—
Four hundred men, a murderous band,
Access, importunate, demand,
And shake the groaning gate.”

I wake—I fly—while loud and near,
Dread execrations wound my ear,
And sore my soul dismay.
One avenue alone remained,
A speedy passage there I gained,
And winged my rapid way.

That moment, all the furious throng,
An entrance forcing, poured along,
And filled my peaceful cell ;
Where harmless jest, and modest mirth,
And cheerful laughter oft had birth,
And joy was wont to dwell.

Not e'en the Muses' hallowed fane*
Their lawless fury can restrain,
Or check their headlong haste ;
They push them from their solemn seats,
Profane their long revered retreats,
And lay their Pindus waste.

Nor yet content—but hoping still
Their impious purpose to fulfil,
They force each yielding door ;
And while their curses load my head
With piercing steel they probe the bed,
And thirst for human gore.

Meanwhile along the sounding shore,
Where Hudson's waves incessant roar,
I work my weary way ;
And skirt the windings of the tide,
My faithful pupil by my side,
Nor wish the approach of day.

At length, ascending from the beach,
With hopes revived, by morn I reach
The good Palemon's cot ;
Where, free from terror and affright,
I calmly wait the coming night
My every fear forgot.

* He alludes to the college edifice converted into a military hospital, and which a note on this passage intended for his English readers describes as—"an elegant edifice, since converted into common barracks."

'Twas then I scaled the vessel's side,*
Where all the amities abide,
That mortal worth can boast;
Whence, with a longing, lingering view,
I bade my much loved York adieu,
And sought my native coast.

Now, all composed, from danger far,
I hear no more the din of war,
Nor shudder at alarms;
But safely sink each night to rest,
No *malice* rankling through my breast,
In *Freedom's* fostering arms.

Though stript of most the world admires,
Yet, torn by few untamed desires,
I rest in calm content;
And humbly hope a gracious Lord
Again those blessings will afford
Which once his bounty *lent*.

Yet, still, for many a faithful friend,
Shall, day by day, my vows ascend
Thy dwelling, O my God!
Who steady still in *virtue's* cause,
Despising *faction's* mimic laws,
The paths of *peace* have trod.

Nor yet for *friends* alone—for *all*,
Too prone to heed sedition's call,
Hear me, indulgent Heav'n!

* The Kingfisher, Captain James Montagu.

“ O may they cast their arms away,
To *Thee* and *George* submission pay,
Repent, and be forgiven.

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* * “the whole number of Students éducaté in the College prior to 1775, was but one hundred.”

The degrees conferred by the College while it was styled King's College, including those granted in 1775 and 1776, were the following : viz.

111	of	A. B.	6	of	M. D.
98	“	A. M.	3	“	S. T. D.
12	“	M. B.	2	“	LL. D.

Those granted subsequently, down to and including the Commencement of 1845, were as follows, viz. :

1232	of	A. B.	35	of	M. D.
425	“	A. M.	87	“	S. T. D.
			41	“	LL. D.

The three on whom the degree of Doctor in Divinity was conferred by King's College, were the Rev. Dr. Samuel Auchmuty, the Rev. Dr. Thomas B. Chandler, and the Rev. Dr. John Ogilvie, who all held the same degree previously—the two former from the University of Oxford, the last named, from that of Aberdeen.

The only two on whom King's College conferred the degree of Doctor of Laws, were its President, Dr. Cooper, who had the same degree from Oxford, and His Excellency William Tryon, Governor of the Province of New York.

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* * "the important public services of his previous long career."

That we do not overrate the public services of Dr. Johnson, and that this first President of Columbia College was no less distinguished as a jurist and statesman, than his father, the first President of King's College had been as a divine, will appear from the following brief memoranda of his life.

After his graduation at Yale College, in 1744, he continued his studies at Harvard University, where he took his second degree in 1747. He then applied himself to the study of the law, and with such success—so endowed in mind, in voice, in person, and by instruction as an orator—that his first appearance at the bar is regarded as forming an epoch in the legal history of his native State—the very low condition of legal science, of general literature, and of taste, at this period in the colony, serving to exhibit in

still higher relief a superiority, which, under any circumstances, would have shown itself.

He soon attained the highest professional reputation, and after repeatedly representing his county in the Colonial Assembly, was sent in 1765, as delegate of Connecticut to a Congress of the Colonies assembled in this city. The address of that body to the king, which feelingly portrayed the situation of the colonies, and firmly but respectfully asserted their rights, as forming a portion of the British Empire, was prepared by a committee, in which Mr. Johnson was associated with Robert R. Livingston, of New-York, and William Murdoch, of Maryland, but was principally written by him. In the following year he was sent to England as the agent of Connecticut, and especially in the management of a cause of high importance to the colony, as involving not only its title to an extensive tract of land, but even its chartered rights.

This cause, removed from Connecticut by appeal to the King and Lords in Council, he defended before that high tribunal with singular ability and zeal. Detained in England for above four years by this important litigation, he made acquaintance with many of the brightest luminaries of the period. Secker, Berkeley, Lowth, Horne, Porteous, Newton, and Lord Mansfield were among his warmest friends—Johnson took

a particular liking to his transatlantic namesake, and maintained a correspondence with him for several years after his return. The University of Oxford conferred on him the degree of Doctor of Civil Law, and he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society, on the recommendation of Sir John Pringle, who was then its President. The year after his return from England, he was appointed a Judge of the Superior Court of Connecticut, and two years later, a delegate to the Congress, whose labours eventuated in the Declaration of Independence; but highly important professional engagements preventing his attendance, another delegate was chosen in his place.

In 1780, he was re-elected a member of the Council of Connecticut, now an independent State; and in 1783, he was employed to plead at Trenton, before Commissioners appointed by Congress, the cause between his State and Pennsylvania, in which the former claimed, under her charter, lands which now form a portion of Ohio. In this important cause, which engaged the greatest legal talents of the country, Dr. Johnson's efforts are said to have been unrivalled.

In 1784, he was elected to the Congress, which in December of that year removed to this city, and in which he continued until chosen a delegate to the Convention which formed the

Constitution of the United States. As such he contributed greatly to reconcile conflicting interests, and was in several instances the happy instrument of conciliation between the jealousies and fears of the smaller, and the demands of the larger States.

In January, 1788, being then President of Columbia College, he was chosen by Connecticut as one of her Senators in Congress, under the new Constitution. To him and his colleague, Oliver Ellsworth, was committed the important duty of framing a judiciary system for the United States, and the bill which they reported, was adopted with little alteration. On the removal of Congress from New-York, Dr. Johnson resigned his seat in the Senate, and devoted himself wholly to the duties of his presidency, until the year 1800, when, as has been stated, he sought the repose to which he was so well entitled, and which he was permitted to enjoy in this life for a period of above nineteen years—"His age, so far extended beyond the ordinary lot of man, the purity of his life, the kindness and humility of his disposition, and the unshaken confidence of his religious faith, all conspired to invest his character with a sacredness, which almost made him regarded by his family and friends as a being of another world still lingering among them."

The writer of the Obituary Notice of President Johnson, from which the above has for the most part been taken, remarks that he had frequently applied to him the following noble lines of Samuel Johnson ; and that no language could more happily describe his virtuous and venerable age :—

—— — “ The virtues of a temperate prime,
“ Bless with an age exempt from scorn and crime,
“ An age that melts with unperceived decay,
“ And glides in pious innocence away ;
“ Whose peaceful day benevolence endears,
“ Whose night congratulating conscience cheers,
“ The general favorite as the general friend,
“ Such age there is, and who shall wish its end ?”

